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THE EUROPEAN TIMES

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EUROPEAN ARTS
Weekend Times section Page 18

MARC ASPLAND

Looking for balance: Paddy Ashdown's promise to vote down Labour's tax proposals could win the Liberal Democrats votes from disaffected Conservatives

Ashdown would veto Labour's top tax plans

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

LABOUR will be unable to introduce John Smith's tax package, including the removal of the £21,060 ceiling on National Insurance payments and the introduction of a 50p rate of income tax, unless Neil Kinnock wins an overall majority next Thursday.

In a move which could have a considerable effect on voting behaviour, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, confirms today in an interview with *The Times* that his party would vote against any Labour finance bill implementing the shadow budget tax package.

The Conservatives would be bound to vote against any such bill, so a minority Labour government would find it virtually impossible to push through the shadow chancellor's plans in their present form. A minority Labour government would be forced to reconsider phasing in its National Insurance changes or introducing the 50p tax band for employees earning £40,000 or more.

The Liberal Democrats believe that the Labour tax package would wreck Britain's economic recovery by removing incentives for the middle management, who will be a key factor in helping the country to emerge from the recession. Mr Ashdown says that Labour is "entirely wrong" in suggesting that it can pay for its planned spending increases entirely from the new tax band and the 9 per cent rise in National Insurance contributions for those earning £21,060 or more.

"Imposing 59 per cent tax rates incorporating NICs at £40,000 is very bad news indeed," he said. "In particular hitting middle management, not just middle-income earners, with a 49 per cent tax rate at £27,000 is very bad news."

Mr Ashdown said his party would "seek to use our influence and bargain very hard indeed" to resist Labour's proposed tax increases. The Liberal Democrats are in favour of removing the National Insurance ceiling, but they want to merge the tax and NI systems, graduating tax increases so that the middle-income earners will not be hit so hard.

The party could benefit in two ways from its resistance to Labour's tax plans. First, the Liberal Democrats believe it will reassure Conservative waverers who have been tempted to vote for them, but who might otherwise be frightened back into the Tory camp for fear of Labour's tax plans. They also think that middle-income electors who have been contemplating voting for Labour, despite fears about Mr Smith's tax plans, will now want to support the Liberal Democrats in the hope that the third party will act as a restraining collar on Labour in a hung parliament.

With the weekend opinion polls expected to show Labour's lead trimmed and with the country on course for a hung parliament, Mr Ashdown and his colleagues believe that they can continue their recent advance. They think that John Major's attack on them, as a Trojan Horse party which would let Labour into Downing Street, might backfire on the Tories by encouraging more tactical voting.

In his interview with *The Times*, Mr Ashdown is careful not to give any impression that the Liberal Democrats could do a deal only with Labour. He says that they disagree with Labour on virtually every aspect of economic policy. He makes it plain that his party accepts the case for highly flexible labour markets and therefore rejects Labour's national minimum wage.

Mr Kinnock yesterday insisted that his latest moves on

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Peter Riddell, page 16
Leading article, page 17
Letters, page 17
Pound falls, page 21

INSIDE

Doctors back trusts

MORE than 600 doctors, nurses and health care professionals, have today written to *The Times* in support of the Conservative's health reforms. They say that trusts are an important part of the service and the reforms should be given a fair chance to work. Signatories include Lord McColl of Dulwich and Frank Preston, a former physician to the Queen ..... Page 17

Bafta enquiry

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts is investigating the voting for last week's awards after four of the seven drama series judges said they voted for *GBH* rather than the winner, *Prime Suspect*. Page 2

Maxwell order

An American businessman has been ordered by the High Court in London to pay £7 million to the administrators of Robert Maxwell's private companies ..... Page 21

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Jason Donovan awarded £200,000

BY RAY CLANCY

JASON Donovan was yesterday awarded £200,000 damages in the High Court against a magazine that suggested he was homosexual and a hypocrite who lied about his sexual preferences.

The award to the Australian actor and pop star came in spite of one of the strongest warnings to date from a judge to a jury not to go "over the top".

The Face, which has a readership readership of more than 300,000, is now under threat of closure. The publication also faces costs estimated at £200,000. Last night Richard East, Mr Donovan's manager, said that the singer had brought the action to clear his name not to close the magazine and he would begin discussions with the publisher aimed at saving the publication.

The award came after a five-day trial during which Mr Donovan, aged 23, said in the witness box that he was not a homosexual although he believed that everyone should be free to lead their own sort of life.

During his summing up, Mr Justice Drake told the jurors to remember that Mr Donovan's hurt had lasted less than a year and would end with their verdict. He said there were people "out there" with injuries that could never be put right.

Gay slur, page 3

Bookies forecast bumper weekend

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

AN EXPECTED crowd of 60,000 will brave a chilly afternoon to watch the Grand National at Aintree today on a weekend of important sports events that is expected to produce a record turnover for the bookmakers. The National usually attracts bets of £70 million but William Hill said yesterday that with the general election, Boat Race and FA cup semi-finals also taking place, the record was likely to be broken.

William Hill is expecting heavy Grand National betting on the topically-named Party Politics, now 14-1, while Ladbroke is offering 55-1 against Party Politics winning today and Labour gaining an overall majority in the election. Docklands Express, ridden by the champion jockey Peter Scudamore, is expected to start favourite.

The day is expected to be dry, with the winds less fierce than yesterday and security will be increased for the race, which is likely to be watched on television by 16 million people in Britain and 350 million worldwide. Last year, animal rights demonstrators delayed the start for eight minutes and yesterday they marched to the Liverpool course protesting against National Hunt racing.

Oxford, who have won 15 of the last 16 Boat Races, will start 4-7 favourites for the 138th Boat Race, which begins at 2.35pm. The BBC will be televising the Grand National and the Boat Race today, and tomorrow will screen the FA cup semi-finals between Liverpool and Portsmouth at Highbury and Norwich and Sunderland, which will be the first semi-final to be played at Hillsborough since the 1989 disaster.

Today, much of Scotland and Northern Ireland will be dry and bright early on, but a little rain will spread to many places later. Wales and the west of England will be dry and bright with some sunshine, but eastern England will have a lot of cloud and there will be a chance of showers.

On Sunday, England and Wales will be dry and bright and a little milder. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly cloudy and there will be rain later.

Forecast, page 20
Sport, pages 30-36

Yeltsin warns Ukraine over Black Sea Fleet

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin appeared yesterday to raise the stakes in his dispute with Ukraine, threatening to place the Black Sea Fleet under Russian command if Ukraine acted unilaterally to "change its status". He also sent Aleksandr Rutskoi, his vice-president, to the fleet's base at Sevastopol in the Crimea.

Mr Yeltsin's statement, transmitted by Tass, constituted an indirect response to one made by President Kravchuk earlier in the week, when he gave a warning that Ukraine wanted a sufficient portion of the fleet to ensure the country's security. Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, the commander of the former Soviet fleet, said Ukraine planned to keep 90 per cent of it.

Russia and Ukraine have disputed its ownership since the break-up of the Soviet Union, with Russia insisting that most of the 300 ships should remain under Commonwealth command, as "strategic forces" and Ukraine disputing the term strategic and claiming sufficient ships to form a national navy.

Mr Yeltsin's warning came as he was engaged in intense political manoeuvring on the eve of the Russian Congress of People's Deputies, which opens on Monday.

Tough congress, page 15

Salaries in advance beat the shadow budget

BY DAVID YOUNG

MORE than 5,000 high earners in advertising and merchant banking last night received pay packets containing their entire salary for next year. The move was designed to avoid their having to pay higher rates of income tax if Labour wins next week's election.

One merchant bank employee who has signed a loyalty clause entitling him to a bonus of £500,000 on January 1, 1996, was paid the full amount in advance. Tax was deducted at the current 40 per cent higher rate to escape any increase under a Labour government which could be in force by 1996.

Stockbrokers James Capel, Credit Lyonnais-Laing, Smith New Court, and Salomon Brothers, the American securities firm, have already brought forward bonus payments to avoid any tax rises. Several other finance houses have admitted that they paid out bonuses this year in gold to avoid having to pay higher employers' National Insurance contributions on the earnings involved and allowing employees to defer tax payments until the gold is sold. BhS, the retail group, has also brought forward bonus payments for about 50 of its senior managers so that they could receive them before the current tax year ends tomorrow.

The pay-in-advance schemes were drawn up by tax advisers after a study of Labour's "Shadow Budget." The advertising industry has been especially concerned about Labour's tax proposals because of its high number of earners in the £50,000 to £100,000 bracket. A single person earning £50,000, not unusual in London advertising circles, would be £3,500 a year worse off under Labour's tax proposals.

David Marks, an accountant and partner in Arthur Andersen, financial consultants to companies in the media, merchant banking and finance, has been the brains behind many of the schemes. They are perfectly legal, because the 1989 Finance Act makes tax payable on the date salaries are paid rather than over the period they cover.

The payments are, however, irreversible if the Conservatives win the election. But the high earners involved take the view that higher taxes under Labour are more likely than lower taxes under the Tories. Mr Marks said: "A lot of people will be very badly hit by the higher tax rates. The advertising industry will be hit particularly hard by Labour's proposed changes because so many earn significantly more than the national average. As a London-based industry, salaries are higher and it is not renowned for being prudent with its money when it is earning it, so a lot of people have a great deal of debt."

The Confederation of British Industry

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THE TIMES: BREAKING THE NEWS

BREAKING THE CHAINS

Freedom has not brought peace for Gerald Ronson and Terry Waite, who have each emerged from incarceration to find new problems at home. In Saturday Review, Valerie Grove talks to Waite and finds a man searching for a fresh role; and on page 23, Martin Waller profiles Ronson as he prepares to sell £1 billion in property to meet his debts

BREAKING THE RULE

In 1642, Oliver Cromwell and Charles I took their argument over sovereignty and parliamentary privilege to the battlefield. The Times is marking the 350th anniversary of the English revolution with a travelling exhibition, and Weekend Times today details many other events commemorating the civil war. Meanwhile, Saturday Review ponders what a decade of fighting did to the national character

BREAKING THE BANK

The taxman isn't always the enemy; sometimes he's simply the referee upholding the rules. In Weekend Money on page 25, we see how families can play the game to avoid paying more than they need — and give tips on what wise investors should do between now and polling day to safeguard their savings

BREAKING THE MOULD

In this vital week for the future of Britain, Times columnists will be pointing the way forward. With Matthew Parris to make you laugh, and Peter Riddell and Ivor Crewe to make you think. The Times offers an unrivalled service up to the election and beyond. There has never been a more important time to keep our wits about you

Judges say voting for TV award was rigged

By Melinda Wittstock, Media Correspondent

ALLEGATIONS of vote-rigging in British television's answer to the Oscars forced the British Academy of Film and Television Arts yesterday to promise a thorough investigation of the claims at a full meeting of the academy's council on Monday.

Four of the seven members of the judging panel for the best drama series, awarded ten days ago to Granada's *Prime Suspect*, have written to Bafta to query the verdict, claiming that they voted for *GBH*, Alan Bleasdale's political drama on Channel 4.

Sir Richard Attenborough, the film-maker, and David Plowright, the former Granada Television chairman, are among senior Bafta members who will investigate the voting procedures. Richard Price, the Bafta chairman, said last night that a preliminary investigation earlier this week shows that the academy's voting regulations were "scrupulously adhered to". Results of the secret ballot were double-checked and *Prime Suspect* had been declared the winner "in accordance with the votes cast".

However, a further investigation would be "discussed in detail with all members of the council, including the chairman of the jury concerned". Mr Price said there was no question at present of withdrawing the award from *Prime Suspect*, for which Helen Mirren also won the best television actress award for her starring role.

Tony Byrne, Bafta's director, said: "We have had a suggestion of vote-rigging. Any incident which means the reputation of the academy is called into question is highly regrettable." The jury members were Archie Tait, David Reid, Clive Exton, Herbert Wise, Mark Steyn, Louis Marks and Ross Devenish. Irene Shubik, the creator of *Rumpole of the Bailey* and the chairman of the jury, did not vote. The four protesting jurors wished to remain anonymous.

Mr Wise, a television director, is best known for throwing Ryan O'Neal off the set of *Poor Little Rich Girl*, starring Farrah Fawcett, the actor's wife. Mr Devenish is a South African film director. Mr Marks was the producer of a proposed dramatisation of the Guinness affair, and Mr Reid was the former head of series drama at the BBC. Mr Exton is a dramatist. Mr Tait is a film executive and Mr Steyn is the *Evening Standard*'s television critic.

Mr Bleasdale, the writer of *GBH*, said last night: "I don't mind losing in a fair contest. I've had plenty of chances to get used to that in the past. But I can't accept it if cheating is involved." Lynda La Plante, the writer of *Prime Suspect*, said: "Winning the award was the most important moment of my career. But if it is wrong we should go for another vote."

Bafta has always prided itself on its reputation for impartiality and lack of vested interests in honouring the year's best programmes.

The vote-rigging suggestions come days after ITV companies threatened to pull out of Bafta altogether, complaining that the voting system unfairly limits the number of programmes that can be considered for one of the four nominations in each category. The companies also say the Bafta voting system favours the BBC, a claim that is denied by Mr Price.

Mirren: best actress for *Prime Suspect*

Dispute deepens on Jersey

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

A DISPUTE between the government and Jersey parliament worsened last night when the Home Office denied that it had agreed to a six month reprieve for a judge threatened with dismissal.

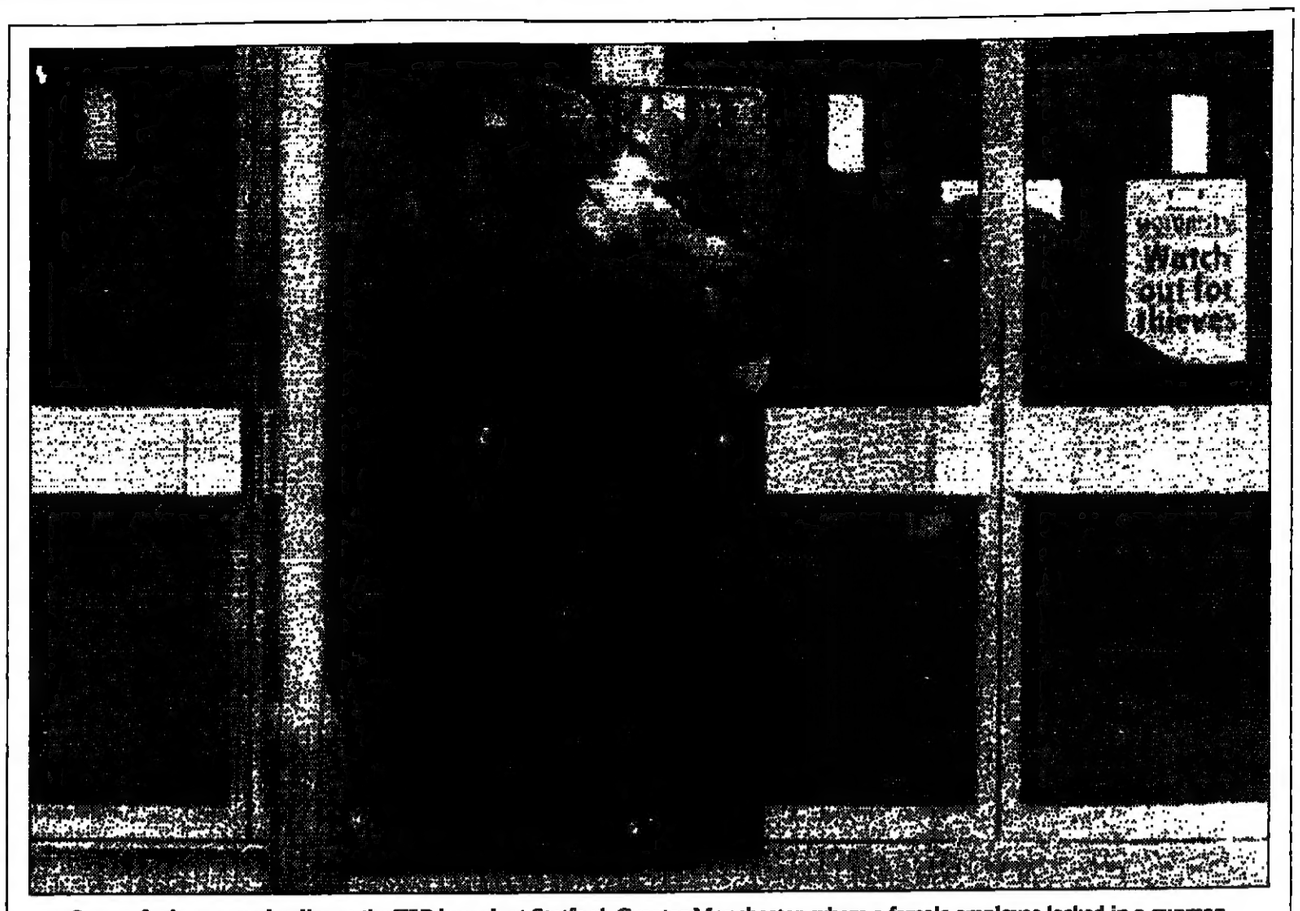
Home Office officials and Sir Peter Crill, the island's bailiff, were understood to be angered at claims made in Jersey that a decision had been reached that the judge would remain in office for six months so that he could bring his work up to date.

Vernon Tomes, aged 61, a senior judge who, as deputy bailiff is also deputy speaker of the States, the Jersey parliament, has been at the centre of a dispute since he was given an ultimatum to leave office in seven days or resign. The order was lifted so that a delegation of Jersey MPs could meet Sir Clive Whitmore, the permanent secretary at the Home Office, to discuss the case, which has arisen after complaints about the length of time it had taken Mr Tomes to deliver judgments.

Yesterday, senator Dick Shenton said in Jersey: "Mr Tomes has been allowed six months to bring his work entirely up to date. He will continue in office as Deputy Bailiff."

The Home Office, however, insisted that no decision had been made about the future of Mr Tomes. A spokesman said that officials had listened to the views of the delegation and had promised to pass them to the home secretary.

It is understood that one of the ideas put forward by the delegation was that Mr Tomes be given six months to complete his judgments and then be allowed to choose his own workload.



Scene of crime: armed police at the TSB branch at Stetford, Greater Manchester, where a female employee locked in a gunman

Gunman flees after clerk locks him in bank

By Ronald Faux

A MASKED gunman was locked in the bank he was trying to rob yesterday by the young bank clerk he had ordered to open the safe. Armed police surrounded the building, but the man escaped.

The clerk, a woman aged 22, was confronted by the raider who pointed a handgun at her when she opened the TSB branch in Stretford, Greater Manchester. She told him that she had no access to the bank's secure areas. He ordered her to open the Speedbank automatic cash dispenser but she told him she could not.

A TSB official in London said that the man then became agitated and the clerk calmed him down and told him that, if she could leave the building, she would get the keys. "When she left the branch, she locked him in the building and then ran to call the police."

The armed response unit of Greater Manchester police surrounded the building, but the man had escaped through a back window. Nothing was taken.

Police and the bank praised the calmness and bravery of the young woman yesterday. Her name was not disclosed for her own safety.

The official said: "It was a very brave thing to do and she has now begun to realise what might have happened. She is in a very agitated, upset state and the police are concerned for her safety."

Police say that the man broke into the bank through a hole in the roof without setting off the building's alarm system. He then lay in wait for the bank to open. Police described him as a white male, 5ft 10in, aged 25-35, and of slim to medium build.

Councils warned over tax register

By Douglas Broom, Local Government Correspondent

COUNCILS trying to compile registers to check who is paying the proposed council tax will face prosecution, the data protection watchdog said yesterday.

David Smith, the assistant data protection registrar, said that whatever system of local taxation replaced the community charge after the election, councils would not be entitled to amass information about residents.

Eight councils were prosecuted for contravening the Data Protection Act after the introduction of the poll tax two years ago, prompting the first sitting of the data protection tribunal in its six year history. Although the law specifically permitted the keeping of a poll tax register the councils were convicted for keeping non-essential information about dates of birth and the types of houses in which people lived.

The Labour party and a large number of city council treasurers have said that the council tax will not be workable without an almost complete register of all people living in each council area.

Michael Portillo, the local government minister, has insisted that no such register will be needed for the new tax.

Writing in the official journal of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, Mr Smith said that councils were only entitled to keep information about individuals if it was strictly necessary. "For properties where the full council tax is payable it is difficult to see the relevance of holding any personal data beyond the name and address of the person liable to pay the tax," he said.

Councils would also be forbidden to sell valuation lists to mailing houses and if they sent out council tax questionnaires to residents they would have to specify in detail how the information would be used.

Mr Smith said that although his comments related to the council tax, the principles also applied to Labour's fair rates plan. "The fundamental rule is that local authorities may ask for and keep only the minimum information about each individual needed to carry out their statutory functions," he said.

● A nurse sent to prison for ten weeks for failing to pay her poll tax was freed on bail by a judge yesterday pending a High Court challenge to the jailing order.

Deborah Clark, an agency nurse from Stonehouse, Gloucester, was committed to prison on March 19 by South Gloucester magistrates after failing to keep up with a £6 a week payment order.

The magistrates had earlier remitted £150 of her community charge bill and her lawyers argued that having done so it was "inconsistent and unreasonable" to jail her for failing to pay the balance.

Joyce file saved from Paris to go on view

By Bruce Arnold

A FIFTY-YEAR embargo on what may be the last significant collection of James Joyce papers is being lifted.

The collection will be opened by Albert Reynolds, the Irish republic's prime minister, in a ceremony at the National Library, Dublin, at noon tomorrow. Stephen James Joyce and Alexis Leon, grandsons, respectively, of Joyce and of his secretary, Paul Leon, are to attend.

The papers were rescued from James Joyce's flat in Paris by his secretary after the writer had fled the city on his way to Zurich, which he reached early in 1940, dying there a year later. Joyce had intended his departure from Paris to be temporary, and, because he had left bills unpaid, his landlord appropriated and auctioned some possessions.

Leon went back to the apartment on the rue des Vignes to collect documents. He bought back some other property at the auction, and managed to deposit the papers with the Irish minister in Paris, Count O'Kelly. Leon was then arrested by the Gestapo, and, being Jewish, was interned and shot.

Leon's instructions to the Irish diplomat, in the event of his death, were to transfer the two boxes of papers to the National Library in Dublin, where they were to be held unopened for 50 years from Joyce's death. It has taken a further year since the lifting of the embargo for the papers to be catalogued and made available to the public.

The handing over of the collection was controversial. Joyce's widow, Nora, and his son, Giorgio, tried to recover the papers, and it is understood that lawyers for the James Joyce estate visited Dublin to discuss the contents of the boxes.

Joyce's grandson, who is sensitive about family privacy, has been in Dublin this week discussing the papers with Pat Donlon, the chief librarian. It is understood that some remain under embargo, and others may even have been withdrawn.

There is intense interest in the collection. Samuel Beckett was a close friend of Joyce at the time of the latter's association with Leon and went to Vichy with Joyce when the writer left Paris. Then virtually unknown, Beckett has since become a rival in the hall of fame, one of Ireland's most admired authors, and, unlike Joyce, a Nobel prize-winner. Anything connected with him will add to the value of the collection.

However, the collection is unlikely to contain important manuscripts. Most of the important Joyce material is now in the United States.

Hogging the skyline: Birmingham's Rotunda

Bank offers to save unloved landmark

By Craig Seton

A CHAMPION has come forward to save the Rotunda, the unloved landmark in the centre of Birmingham that is facing demolition to make way for a £500 million redevelopment of the city's Bull Ring shopping complex.

Lloyds Bank, a tenant at the base of the Rotunda, wants the bulldozers stopped and is to present plans for the spherical office tower to be safeguarded and given an expensive facelift that would include a laser-beam display on its roof.

The bank concedes that its desire to save the 18-storey building is driven by commercial rather than aesthetic considerations. The Rotunda was completed in the mid-1960s and has become a visual symbol of the city, although the London and Edinburgh Trust (LET), the developer of the Bull Ring site, compares it to a Coca Cola tin.

LET wants the site of the Rotunda as the main entrance to the proposed new Bull Ring shopping centre, a project it says is one of the most complex being undertaken anywhere in Europe. A public enquiry in Birmingham is at present hearing objections to compulsory purchase orders necessary for the redevelopment to go ahead. Lloyds Bank, which was founded in Birmingham in 1765, will make its plea for the Rotunda at a hearing next week and put forward plans for a £3.8 million refurbishment, including a new façade.

David Drake, the bank's regional executive director, said yesterday: "From a commercial point of view we have a substantial business there that we want to protect. We believe there is no need to demolish the Rotunda. Under our proposals it could be retained and incorporated within LET's wider plans."

He said Lloyds wanted to remain loyal to its customers and stay in that part of the city centre. It was not happy at the possibility of finding temporary offices until the Bull Ring redevelopment was completed.

LET's Bull Ring design has been on the drawing board for three years. Local community groups have said that it is not "people-friendly". The city council has not objected to the end of the Rotunda and supports the company's latest proposals for one million square feet of shops to replace the existing complex. They include a 30-storey office facing New Street station to act as a new landmark.

£10m for boy who survived car crash

A boy stands to receive nearly £10 million damages from a structured settlement if he lives to the age of 70 after suffering severe brain damage in a road accident in 1982 in which his mother was killed.

A High Court judge adjourned a claim last month by Matthew English, aged 15, for negotiations to turn a guaranteed £510,000 conventional lump sum award into a structured settlement giving him an annual inflation-proof investment income for the rest of his life. Yesterday, Mr Justice Hidden approved the award after being told by David Barker, QC, that the boy would receive a £75,000 lump sum with the balance invested.

If he lived to 70, as medical experts predict, he would receive payments totalling £9,608,560. In addition, Matthew will receive £1,100 out of a total of £40,000 awarded over his mother's death. His father, Benjamin English, aged 40, will receive £35,000 and the balance will be split between his sister Rachel, aged 11, and brothers Paul, 12, and Mark, 16.

Matthew and his mother, Irene, aged 30, were knocked down by a car in December 1982. The claim was against the estate of John Hales, of Bungay, Suffolk, who died later from unrelated causes. They were awarded against his insurers, Prudential. The award over Mrs English's death was on the basis that she was two thirds to blame for the accident, near her home at Halesworth, Suffolk, partly because she was wearing dark clothes and was not keeping a look-out.

The settlement means Mr English can return to work as a postman after spending nine years looking after his four children alone. He nursed Matthew through his disabilities, helping him to learn to walk again.

Howerd fears

Doctors were concerned last night about the condition of Frankie Howerd, who is in intensive care, receiving treatment for a serious heart problem at the Harley Street Clinic. Mr Howerd, aged 70, was comfortable, but seriously ill, the clinic said. He was taken to hospital on Thursday from his home in London after suffering breathing difficulties. It is understood that he has not had a heart attack.

Cruelty to baby

A woman was sent to a psychiatric unit for partly smothering her baby granddaughter on at least 15 occasions. The woman, aged 41, from east London, who cannot be named, put her hands over the baby's nose and mouth when left to look after her, Southwark crown court was told. She admitted two sample charges of cruelty and was sent for assessment under the Mental Health Act.

Thief repents

A German tourist who stole a wooden carving of St John the Apostle from Salisbury cathedral two years ago has returned it with a letter of apology. The letter says that the man did not know how to return the statue without detection, so took it back to Germany. The cathedral placed an advertisement in a German newspaper to let the sender know that the statue had been received.

Killing acquittal

Simon James, a plumber, aged 26, of Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, was found not guilty by Winchester crown court of the manslaughter of Alan White, aged 35, also of Minchinhampton, whose stabbed body was found in a lake near Cirencester in May 1989. Earlier, the jury had cleared Mr James, a former heroin addict, of murdering Mr White.

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Screaming teenagers cheer High Court verdict against style magazine that questioned star's sexuality

Donovan wins damages of £200,000 for gay slur

BY RAY CLANCY

JASON Donovan was surrounded by screaming teenage girls after being awarded £200,000 damages yesterday against a magazine that suggested he was a homosexual.

Cheers, clapping and screams resounded to the high ceiling of the High Court in London as the jury announced its decision. Outside the courtroom the teenagers went wild to the sound of chants of "Jason, Jason, we love you".

The verdict against *The Face*, the style magazine that insinuated that the Australian singer and actor was a liar and a hypocrite because he denied he was gay, is likely to lead to the closure of Wagadon Ltd, its publisher.

Nick Logan, managing director, and Sheryl Garratt, its editor, said that they would bring out the May edition but that the title and its sister publication *Arena* would close unless they could find sufficient funds. They added that they faced financial ruin. The magazine will have to pay costs unofficially estimated at £200,000. Mr Justice Drake granted a stay on the damages pending an appeal on behalf of the magazine.

After the week-long trial, during which Mr Donovan looked pale and stressed under the strain of talking about his sexuality in court, he emerged smiling, surrounded by girls, cameras, police officers and a few bewildered passers-by.

"I am delighted with the verdict. The jury's decision totally vindicates me and clears my name of the slur that I have lied about myself. Damages have never been uppermost in my mind," he said.

Mr Donovan, now starring in the West End revival of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, had told the mainly middle-aged jury that he was disgusted by a feature in the magazine in August 1991 and a photograph of a fake poster supposedly showing him wearing a T-shirt with the words "Queer as F**k" printed across it. The magazine argued that the photograph was clearly a composite and readers would not take it to mean that Mr Donovan was homosexual.

Mr Logan and Miss Garratt said in court that they accepted that Mr Donovan was not gay but insisted that the article was a serious discussion of the issue of "outing", a campaign that began in the United States to expose secret homosexuals. A poster campaign was used to identify well-known public figures without their consent. Evidence heard in court ran from Mr Donovan's sexual preferences to why he put lemon juice on his hair to help the sun bleach it.

Early on, Mr Justice Drake realised that his courtroom was going to be flooded daily by a large number of teenage girls, all eager to stare for hours on end at their idol. Yesterday he took the unusual step of opening the public gallery at the top of the court, and a court official hurriedly dusted the seats with a tissue before the throng burst in.

When the jury returned after three hours, white-haired ushers from other courts joined teenage girls clutching their autograph books and each other. Mr Donovan shut his eyes and clasped his hands as silence descended.

He looked relieved but still in a state of shock when the foreman announced the amount of the damages. Mr Donovan turned to grasp the hand of Charles Gray, QC, his counsel and whispered to reporters: "I am just pleased, pleased."

Outside the courtroom as gay protesters waved banners and called for him to make a statement in favour of equality for homosexuals, the actor composed himself and read from a prepared statement. "This has not been a case about homosexuality and I resent the suggestion that it was. Everybody should be free to live their lives as they wish. I am heterosexual."

His agent, Richard East, said that Mr Donovan would reply personally to a letter sent to him by Outrage, a group campaigning on behalf of homosexuals. The letter asked the actor to make a positive statement to prevent young people being left with the impression that "it is shameful to be lesbian or gay". It went on to suggest that he should join a march through London in June, perform a concert to raise funds for Aids research and publicly call for new legislation for equal rights for gay people.

A group of teenage girls from Tunbridge Wells, Kent, who spent all week watching their hero in court said they were pleased with the verdict and the damages. Suzannah, aged 17, said: "It was right that he should be compensated for all the damage that he has suffered. I have been following Jason since May and just had to come to give him my support."

Losing face over libel bill

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE award against *The Face* is likely to be the ruin of the magazine that created Style in the 1980s under the stewardship of its publisher and creator Nick Logan.

From humble beginnings, the magazine grew to be a glossy bible for youth culture with a worldwide readership of more than 300,000. Now the publication is set for an equally spectacular demise.

Mr Logan and Sheryl Garratt, the magazine's editor, have committed themselves to try to find cash from elsewhere to keep *The Face* afloat. But Nick Goldstone, a solicitor for the company, said last night that they faced financial ruin. He said that, despite a large readership, the magazine had never made huge profits. A staff of 14 stand to lose their jobs if the publication company, Wagadon Ltd, folds.

Mr Logan, aged 45, founded *The Face* in 1980 and initially ran it by himself. In 1982 he joined up with the innovative art director Neville Brody and built the magazine into a handbook for fashion conscious young people. The magazine spawned a host of imitations but survived into the 1990s while others, such as *Blitz*, fell by the wayside.

It was able to publish exclusive stories such as this month's interview with the rock stars U2 because of the respect it gained within the music and fashion world. Jason Donovan himself described the magazine in his evidence as very influential and essential reading for him and his circle of friends.

Logan: created the magazine in 1980

It was never frightened to tackle issues on the cutting edge of young people's lifestyles. But taking up the gauntlet of homosexuality proved to be its downfall. Miss Garratt always maintained in court that the article was not for or against homosexuals, rather an analysis of a new poster campaign aimed at exposing well known gay people and prompting them to speak out about their sexuality.

When she heard about the campaign in the United States, she decided to commission a piece from Ben Summerskill, associate editor of the gay newspaper, *The Pink Paper*. She claimed that she toned down the article because she did not want to give the impression that Donovan was homosexual.

NICK CORNISH

Donovan after the case: 'Damages have never been uppermost in my mind'

RECORD LIBEL PAYOUTS

Date	Plaintiff	Award	Defendant
1989	Lord Aldington	£1.5m	Count Tolstoy
1989	Sonia Sutcliffe	*£600,000	Private Eye
1987	Jeffrey Archer	£500,000	The Daily Star
1992	Barney Eastwood	£450,000	Barry McGuigan/Channel-5
1987	Commander Packard	£450,000	Eleftheroutypia
1988	Koo Stark	£300,000	The People
1991	Esther Rantzen	£250,000	The People
1992	Vladimir Telnikoff	£240,000	Vladimir Majusevitch
1991	Teresa Gorman	£150,000	Anthony Mudd
1992	Sara Keays	£105,000	New Woman magazine

* Reduced on appeal to £60,000

Daughter 'was killed for living with lover'

A strict Muslim stabbed his teenage daughter to death because she had left home to live with her boy friend, a court was told yesterday.

Almas Ahmad broke down the door to the Watford bedsit she shared with her 22-year-old lover and stabbed her 14 times, after going to plead with her to return home, Graham Parkins, QC, for the prosecution, said.

Mr Ahmad, aged 50, an airport cargo loader, of Wembley, north London, denies murdering his daughter, Farah, aged 19, and trying to wound her boy friend, Shaukat Shah, with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Mr Parkins told St Albans crown court that Mr Ahmad, "a devout and strict Muslim" had become obsessively disapproving of the relationship. There was no dispute that Mr Ahmad had stabbed his daughter. The issue was whether it was murder. The case continues on Monday.

Churchill sale

A cast-off suit from Sir Winston Churchill's wardrobe sold to Madame Tussaud's for £990 at Christie's, South Kensington. The grey pinstriped suit, dating from 1957 and cut for corpulence, was given by Churchill to his private nurse, Roy Howells. Beatrice Boyle, of Christie's, said that Mr Howells in turn gave the suit, along with two cigars, to a friend of similar girth.

Trespass threat

Veterans of the mass trespass at Kinder Scout, Derbyshire, in 1932 have promised new action if the next government fails to allow open access to all uncultivated land. Benny Rothman, aged 80, one of 500 walkers in the Kinder Scout protest, said: "We still have the ability to have mass trespasses if the need arises."

Grant at risk

Labour councillors in Wirral are considering suspending a £64,800 grant to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society in protest at the decision to eject Ying Cheung, aged 27, a cerebral palsy victim, from a concert after BBC microphones picked up noises that she could not avoid making.

Surveyor robbed building society

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A CHARTERED surveyor hit by the recession put on a latex mask and robbed a building society with a starting pistol. As he tried to escape, Jonathan Ward-Lee, aged 34, was trapped by an off-duty fireman, a woman aged 85, and two security guards.

Ward-Lee, of West Hampstead, northwest London, drove to the offices of the Bristol and West society in Yeovil, Somerset, and held up the Bristol and West building society, Taunton Crown Court was told.

Michael Gledhill, defending, said that Ward-Lee attended a well-known school and worked for a London firm as a chartered surveyor on a good salary. Two years before the hold-up he had been offered a job with a rival firm, but rejected it after being assured of his prospects. Nothing happened and in 1991 he owed about £20,000.

A property he had bought with his sister, which they intended to improve and sell at a profit, fell in value. His sister was made redundant and the property was repossessed. "With the pressure of his job and financial difficulties, he had some sort of breakdown," Mr Gledhill said.

He took two weeks' leave, then handed over the keys of his company car and walked out without giving notice. He held up the building society after being "pressed on all sides" to pay his debts.

Ward-Lee admitted the £2,190 robbery and having an imitation firearm with intent to commit an offence. He was jailed for seven years.

Children's home head abused boys

BY ADAM FRESCO

A FORMER children's home chief was jailed for four years yesterday for indecently assaulting boys in his care who referred to him as "Dad". Christopher Oldfield was found guilty of five charges at Newcastle upon Tyne crown court.

Oldfield, aged 49, was cleared of three indecent assaults and of buggery. During the ten-day trial the court was told how he abused the children, now all adults, after he was given charge of Cleveland council's Elm Tree Farm Community Home at Stockton-on-Tees. The offences were committed between 1977 and 1983, after he invited youngsters to his flat to watch video films, or during holiday trips to his canal cruiser.

Sentencing Oldfield, of Southport, Merseyside, Judge John Johnson said that the abuse was not the worst form of indecent assault, but was still serious. His position as the home's chief officer meant "the gravity is very much increased".

Accusations that Oldfield assaulted youngsters at Elm Tree were made in 1981 and 1983. The allegations were investigated by police and Cleveland social services, but were withdrawn due to lack of evidence. In October 1990, police began another enquiry when a former resident, then aged 21, said that he had been abused by Oldfield. Victims were traced nationwide and Oldfield, an ex-soldier, was suspended.

Det Inspector Mick Sample, who led the enquiry, said: "It became quite evident Oldfield would target his victims, spending many hours building up their trust and confidence. Inevitably he targeted and abused the more vulnerable children."

Mike Lauerman, Cleveland social services director, said: "I am sure I speak for everyone in the department when I express deep regret over the incidents brought to light by this case and our sincere sympathy to those young people involved." He added that a national enquiry was examining the recruitment of staff working in residential care.

Heading for immortality

Nick Nuttall reports on group of people all hoping to be the everlasting life and soul of a very peculiar party

SMALL talk about the freezing of heads and bodies would normally be considered to win few friends at parties but the topic will raise hardly an eyebrow at a gathering in east London today.

The party, to be held at a flat in Wapping, is to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the freezing of James H. Bedford, a psychology professor from Glendale, California, who died in 1967 and became the first man to be cryonically suspended in hope of life eternal.

All the party-goers have signed up to have either their whole bodies frozen when they die, a service costing nearly £75,000, or just their heads, for about £35,000. Eventually, when science has advanced sufficiently, they expect to be awakened, cured of whatever killed them, and start new and possibly eternal lives.

Before any can step into the future, however, scientists will have to clone on new or even more glamorous bodies to the ones that were jettisoned in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

The Wapping celebrations are to be mirrored in New York and at the Marriot hotel, near Ontario airport, California. The Californian celebrations will take place 45 minutes' drive from Alcor Life Extension, the company that offers the "suspension" service.

The company that professor Bedford originally joined, and which handled his body after his death, ran out of money in 1972. Only three bodies were rescued, one being that of the late professor, who was transferred to Alcor in 1982.

Mike Perry, its "patient caretaker", says that after 25 years Americans still remain sceptical about cryonics. Only 21 bodies and heads are stored and the 300-strong membership is unlikely to increase greatly.

In Britain, where the organisation started in the late 1980s and where membership is about a dozen, there has been some progress. The organisation now has a £230,000 centre, for treating members and crating them up for a flight to California.

The organisation's activities have even been featured in a BBC Schools documentary programme aimed at teaching children about the laws of thermodynamics.

New jail will give inmates keys to cells

Paul Wilkinson reports from the first private prison, which opens its doors to 'consumers' from next week

BRITAIN'S first privately run jail, where prisoners have keys to their cells but not to the front door, begins operation on Monday. The Wolds remand centre on Humberside will take up to 50 prisoners from courts in South Yorkshire next week.

It will build to a maximum of 320 male remand prisoners of all types except the most dangerous, Category A. The £5 million annual contract from the Home Office to run the £32 million jail, 12 miles west of Hull, was won last year by a specially formed division of the Group Four security company.

Jim Harrower, chief executive of Group Four, said yesterday that it wanted to produce a "secure but humane" environment. He believed that the experience of running the jail would put his company in the best position to win the contract for the next prison to be privatised — Blakenhurst, near Redditch, Hereford and Worcester, which is double the size of Wolds and will hold convicted as well as remand prisoners.

Stephen Twinn, director of Wolds, a post equivalent to governor, said: "We have to remember that the prisoners here are not guilty and we can only subject them to the minimum of restrictions. We have planned to get rid of avoidable frustrations. We are breaking with a prison regime of 200 years of ill feeling, broken promises and frustrating tradition."

Mr Twinn, one of only five of the 160 staff recruited from the Prison Service, added that the inmates were as much the company's customers as were taxpayers and the courts. "They are, after all, the direct consumers of our service and it is my experience that they are often first in the queue at the customer complaint desk."

The prison has single cells, each with a lavatory. Rob Foggo, unit manager responsible for overseeing the cell blocks, said that giving each prisoner a cell key would provide privacy. "No other prisoner will be able to enter his cell if he so wishes." The locks can be over-ridden by staff when necessary, and the prisoner is still contained by locked outer doors to the block.

Staff, who will be called prison security supervisors rather than prison officers, will wear uniforms more akin to hotel staff: light grey trousers, matching clip-on tie, white shirt and black blazer with the Group Four logo. All will wear identity badges and the use of first names is encouraged.

Wolds has six blocks with cells built on two levels around an oblong recreation area. Inmates will be able to spend all their waking hours outside their cells, from rising at 6.25am to lights out at 11pm. Up to two hours can be spent outdoors.

Each block has three televisions and a video for recording late-running programmes. There is also a pool table, soft seating and a dining area where meals are brought on heated trays from a central kitchen. The supervisor in charge of each block eats the same meals as the prisoners, in the same dining area. Catering and medical services have been sub-contracted to private operators.

Prisoners will be able to select four meals a day, including porridge for breakfast, from a weekly menu. There is a choice of two dishes for each meal, plus a vegetarian dish for lunch, tea and supper. Two qualified chefs and a baker head the catering staff.

Other facilities include a gymnasium and games hall. Humberside council is providing staff to run education programmes, and there will be probation officers on full-time duty.

Once inside the brown and red brick 17ft walls, topped by an overhanging anti-climb "beak", there is only an occasional reminder of security: primarily, the 19ft mesh fences with razor wire barriers on top, which divide the compound. Inside the blocks, there are more doors than barred gates.

The cells have been furnished with pastel coloured duvets and bedding, matching the paintwork, and towels and toothpaste are provided.

Mr Twinn proposes a compact with the prisoners. In return for good behaviour, there will be extra privileges such as additional visits or increased recreation time. On the other side of the coin, there is a forbidding segregation block. One floor houses prisoners such as alleged sex offenders, kept apart for their own safety, while the other holds the punishement wing, including an unfurnished 10ft square room, minus even a bed, for the worst offenders.

Mr Twinn said: "We are offering a safe, efficient and cost-effective service. We will deliver not because we have discovered the Holy Grail but because we have gone round the world and looked at the best of practices everywhere. This is the best there is."

ASADOUR GUZELIAN

Open-door policy: Andy Wainwright, 'custody supervisor', at Wolds remand prison yesterday

Oil men's helicopter forced to land

An investigation began yesterday into how a North Sea helicopter, like one that crashed north-east of Shetland last month with the loss of 11 lives, suffered engine trouble after leaving an oil workers' "flotel". The pilot made an emergency landing on a nearby platform halfway between Orkney and Norway.

Yesterday's incident involved a Super Puma helicopter with 17 passengers and two crew minutes after it left the Port Regency flotel in the Miller field. The pilot reported trouble with an engine and sent a Mayday signal, but made a single-engine landing on BP's Miller platform, 180 miles off Aberdeen.

The emergency happened on the day of a memorial service in the Kirk of St Nicholas, Aberdeen, for those killed when a Super Puma crashed while ferrying them from the Cormorant Alpha platform to a flotel during a snowstorm.

The aircraft in yesterday's incident was also operated by Bristow, which later said that senior managers were inspecting it. BP said that the pilot had to shut down an engine five minutes after take-off. A rescue operation involving RAF and coastguard helicopters began after radio contact was lost. A preliminary report by the Air Accident Investigation Bureau into last month's crash found no mechanical failure.

Hoaxer traced

An Irishman who gave the operator his address in a bomb-hoax call was put on probation for two years yesterday by magistrates at Uxbridge, northwest London. Sean Flynn, aged 21, of Northwood, north London, was extremely drunk when traced, Irene Bhadressa, for the prosecution, said.

Bail penalty

The Central Criminal Court has ordered that Joop Alberts, a UN diplomat, forfeit £10,000 bail security after his Dutch-born son, Petrus Alberts, aged 23, failed to appear on a charge of starting a £250,000 fire at the Schiller University in south London.

M3 protest

Six protesters arrested in February after chaining themselves to equipment used to demolish railway bridges for the M3 extension at Twyford Down, Hampshire, will not face charges, police said yesterday.

Port extended

A £3 million, 240-yard quay opened yesterday on the Great Ouse at King's Lynn, Norfolk, by Associated British Ports doubles the size of ship that can use the port.

Keats theft

A life-size marble bust of the poet John Keats has been stolen from Hampstead Parish Church in north London.

Increase in women priests

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

NEARLY half of the world's Anglican churches have women priests, according to figures disclosed yesterday.

Of 33 autonomous governing churches and provinces in the Anglican Communion, 13 have women priests and 14 have women deacons. Worldwide, there are two women bishops, 1,342 women priests and nearly 2,000 women deacons. America has 1,031 women priests, the highest after Canada, which has 158.

Five churches and provinces, including southern and central Africa, the West Indies and Scotland, will decide within two years whether to ordain women priests. The Church of England, which in the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has the *primus inter pares*, or first among equals of Anglican primates, will decide at general synod in November.

Jim Rosenthal, of the Anglican Communion secretariat in London, said: "The Church of England is the mother church and is highly respected among all the Anglican churches. We did this survey in response to the number of enquiries we were receiving."

There are nearly 70 million members of the Anglican Communion in 164 countries. They worship in about 64,000 congregations, although the total number of priests is not known.

Scientists aid plants that are feeling blue

By Alison Roberts

BLIGHTED pansies and ravaged roses may one day be able to tell us, if we had not noticed, that they are feeling under the weather. Scientists have inserted a gene from a jellyfish into a tobacco plant to create a variety that glows blue when in trouble.

A team at Edinburgh University has extracted a tiny amount of DNA from a glowing jellyfish found in the Pacific and inserted it into tobacco, potato and a type of cress. Higher than normal levels of calcium in stressed plants react with a protein made by the gene to produce a faint sky-blue light, detectable by a hand-held sensor.

The development could help farmers. Stress caused by wind or frost can be disastrous and the careful positioning of special plants could indicate when a crop is suffering. Higher levels of stress trigger greater emissions of light, although it is not visible to the human eye.

Marc Knight, leader of the team, whose research is reported by the *New Scientist*, said: "Indicator plants could work as sensors for various stimuli. The beauty of it is that these plants tell the farmer the plants are in danger before the damage is done." He said that there has been enthusiasm from other scientists. "This is very new and we are only just looking at what it could be used for."

Dr Knight gives an assurance that daffodils are not about to develop triffid-like habits. "None of the plants that have been made have been released, not that they are dangerous. We are strictly governed by the genetic manipulation rules," he said.

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Explosives case man is granted new appeal

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A BUSINESSMAN fighting to prove that he is innocent of a conviction for making explosive devices is to get a second appeal hearing.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, ruled yesterday that the case of John Berry should be heard again, in spite of an earlier judgment by the appeal court in 1990 that it could not be reopened. His case was highlighted by *The Times* last year.

Mr Berry was convicted at Chelmsford crown court in 1983 of making an explosive device for an unlawful purpose. The Crown said that he made electronic timers that were designed for use by terrorists in the construction of bombs.

Lord Lane acted after the home secretary requested the appeal court to consider reviewing the case again. The Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny and Mr Justice Judge, said that it was entirely right for the home secretary to refer the matter to the court and the case should be heard as an ordinary appeal.

Mr Berry, aged 54, of Bramerton, Norfolk, has fought for a second hearing because at his first appeal no ruling was made on two of his three arguments against conviction. He won on one argument but his conviction was reinstated when the Crown appealed to the House of Lords. When Mr Berry tried to get the case relisted in 1990, Lord Justice Watkins, the deputy chief justice, ruled that it would be extraordinary if the appeal court could overturn the Lords' decision.

Lord Lane said yesterday that it was not necessary to examine in detail the reasons why the court refused to relist the case. The difficulties in Mr Berry's case had been caused by the "mistake, if indeed a mistake it was", made at the original appeal hearing, when the court made no ruling of two of Mr Berry's three grounds of appeal.

Outside the Law Courts, Mr Berry, who was released from prison on parole last week after serving part of a six-year sentence, said: "I am delighted at the decision. Everything is now pointing in the right direction and, as it will be a full appeal, we will bring forward new evidence to prove my innocence."

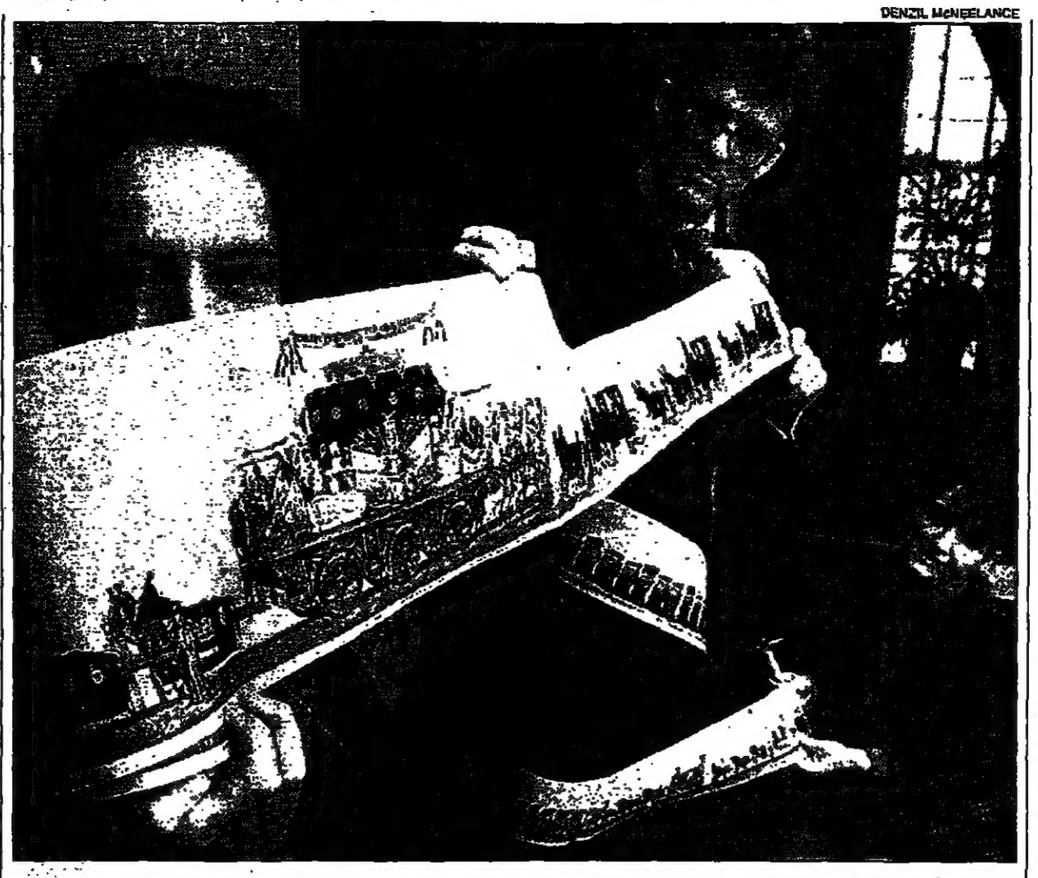
At Mr Berry's trial it was said that he had been associated with Geoffrey Smith, a businessman, in the export of the timers to the Middle East for terrorism. Mr Smith, who faced the same charge as Mr Berry, was cleared after a retrial.

In Mr Berry's first appeal, which he won, he argued that the English courts had no jurisdiction over an offence to be committed in the Middle East, that the judge had wrongfully refused to order further details of the Crown's case, and that the verdict was unsafe because terrorism had not been defined during the trial.

The appeal court overturned the conviction after accepting the first argument, but it made no decision on the other two points. While the Crown's appeal to the Lords was being heard, Mr Berry left the country because he suspected that the law lords would restore his conviction. He was expelled from Spain in 1989 and resumed his sentence, which was cut from eight to six years in 1990.

Berry: imprisoned for making bomb timers

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Long and winding road: Phillips auction staff Juliet Drysdale, left, Richard Lloyd and Alexandra Eccles-Williams with a 67ft print of Wellington's funeral procession, expected to fetch up to £2,500

Synthetic 'herb' drug may beat malaria

BY NICK NUTTALL

A MAN-MADE version of a Chinese herbal drug may offer a powerful treatment for malaria, research indicates.

Scientists have been testing the drug, a crude natural version of which has been used in China for more than 2,000 years, on people with early onset of malaria. When used with another malaria drug it appears to cure all victims, the scientists say.

The research, described in *The Lancet*, has been done in Thailand, where malaria kills up to 4,000 people a year and where resistance to standard drugs is rising. Researchers tested artesunate, made from qinghaosu, a man-made derivative of a substance found in the herb *Artemisia annua*, the anti-malarial properties of which were rediscovered 20 years ago.

Of 39 patients given artesunate, followed by mefloquine, a last-resort malarial drug, all were cured in 28 days, their blood free of malarial parasites. Eighty-one per cent of patients on mefloquine alone were cured and 88 per cent of those on artesunate alone.

Villagers drink to water victory

VILLAGERS who boast the best cup of tea in Britain have won the right to keep their private water supply free from chlorine.

A public enquiry by the environment department has backed the residents of Rampisham against West Dorset council, which had insisted that their water, supplied from an underground spring, be chlorinated. Instead, the village will be allowed to use an ultraviolet treatment that will not affect the taste.

At the enquiry in January, residents admitted to the department's inspector that their water occasionally failed to comply with European Community safety rules, but opposed any move that would change its taste. The inspector's report says that there is no evidence that the water has produced any harmful effect.

Tina Hayward, sub-postmaster of Rampisham, said yesterday: "It's great news for the village that we can still get our water with no nasty additives, and the tea will taste just as good as ever."

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ELECTION 92

Commander Paddy scents success in the air

Robin Oakley takes a close and critical look at the Lib Dem leader's claim to agree and disagree equally with Labour and the Tories

PADDY Ashdown has had another good war. Election campaigns are about pushing your party's subjects to the top of the agenda and here we are on the last weekend with all three parties talking about proportional representation and Labour flirting openly with Liberal Democrat consensus politics.

As he puts it: "For Neil *Kinnock or John Major it is* sudden death: whoever wins, wins, whoever loses, goes." But he can be a winner either way. "We can take advantage of any situation," he says.

Really? Isn't that a merely tactical claim to reassure wavering Tories that he is not, as Mr Major suggests, the doorkeeper to let Labour into Number 10? How could he in a hung parliament shore up a Conservative administration that, having watched a 100-plus majority melt away, would be perceived as having *lost an election? The Liberal* Democrats have voted with Labour 17 times out of 20. Is not Labour, as Mr Kinnock *intimates, their political* soulmate?

Not so, says Mr Ashdown. Of course they have voted more often with Labour: "We are part of the opposition." But if 39 per cent of his party would prefer a deal with Labour, so 39 per cent too would prefer a deal with the Tories. It would be "very, very difficult" being seen to rescue Mr Major, "but it won't then be a Tory government, it will be a partnership government".

And when I asked him where his party parted company with Labour, the response was emphatic: "On every point of economic policy we differ substantially *from Labour.*"

Mr Ashdown says: "We see an attack on monopolies, the fostering of competition as a *cardinal point.* We see the need for the establishment of an independent central bank. We accept the need to track back as fast as we can to balanced budgets, with borrowing back within five years to a lower point than that proposed by the Tories. We accept that monetarism has a part to play as well as Keynesianism. While Keynesianism may be appropriate at some points of the cycle like we're in now, you can't give a Keynesian stimulus to the economic unless it is balanced by a very tough long-term anti-inflationary policy."

Liberal Democrats, he insists, accept the case for *highly flexible labour markets* and therefore reject Labour's national minimum wage. "The point is to tackle poverty, but we think it is totally the wrong instrument."

It is quite a catalogue. But the key electorally may be the Liberal Democrat leader's pledge that his party would vote against any Labour finance bill removing the earnings ceiling on national insurance contributions and introducing a 50p top rate of tax at £40,000 a year.

Mr Ashdown's party is not against removal of the national insurance contributions ceiling, wanting the tax and national insurance systems merged. But he says: "Labour is entirely wrong in seeking to pretend that it can fund its programmes from high rates on higher earners."

He adds: "Imposing 59 per cent tax rates incorporating NICs at £40,000 is very bad news indeed. In particular, hitting middle management, not just middle income earners with a 49 per cent tax rate at £27,000 is very bad news."

The electoral invitation to vote for Paddy to put a collar on Labour in a hung parliament is clear. But would either Neil or John think of lifting the phone? Mr Ashdown admits that "if you are a military commander you plan to the worst circumstances". They may not. But he argues that a Tory leader who had lost a 100 majority, a Labour leader whose party had failed for the fourth time running to win an overall majority, would have a problem of legitimacy.

And if another party leader *does put 10p in the phone* box, what figures on his shopping list? It came out in this order: PR and constitutional change. Scottish and Welsh parliaments. Education as a spending priority. An economic system strong on com*petition and tax rates that will* allow economic recovery. An independent central bank as cornerstone of that anti-inflationary policy. More investment in public services than the Tories had provided. And much more "participation" in Europe. "The sticking plaster of opting out was specifically pre-election. I don't think John Major will have difficulty getting out after if he wants to." Any deal, he says, will not be another Lib-Lab pact. That would not offer the stability the country needs. His party too needs practice in the "disciplines of collective decision-making". And Mr Ashdown rejects the thought that they could not afford an early second election: *They could fight an election* on much slimmer resources than the big two, which will be bankrupt, he says.

Two years ago the Liberal Democrat leader said: "I would sell my grandmother for a bit of definition." And for the first time in many years a third party is fighting a British election with a distinctive ramp of policies, on Europe, on the environment, on housing.

One of their cleverest gambles has been the "one penny on your tax to pay for better education". Mr Ashdown cares about education. But there was calculation too. "I was determined," he says, "to attach at least one bread-and-butter issue to us." But are they not trying to have it both ways, claiming the credit for taking tough decisions then building in the get-outs?

> ❶ Politics is the art of deciding what you have to do and then persuading people to go along with it ❷

They please environmentalists by promising to increase petrol taxes but compensate those in rural areas. They promise to stop housing market distortion by ending mortgage interest tax relief, but say that no one who has it now will lose his or her relief. *Unfair, says Mr Ashdown.*

"Politics is the art of deciding what you have to do and then persuading people to go *along with it," he says. But* reforms such as increasing petrol taxes and ending mortgage tax relief cannot be *introduced overnight. And* they have anyway suffered in rural areas because the Tories have exploited their line on petrol tax.

On regional assemblies — an item in the Liberal Democrat platform no longer being emphasised — he concedes the lack of demand as yet. The way forward, he suggests, is an enabling bill defining rights of regions and of national government so that some areas could go ahead while the Home Counties might choose never to do so.

As he sat cross-legged in the cushioned warren at the back *of his battle bus, I asked Mr* Ashdown finally about the Liberal Democrats' reputation as the Mr Cleans of *politics. Was that not some*what phoney when their opponents call them the dirtiest fighters of all on the ground?.

Show him the evidence of dirty tricks since he became leader, Mr Ashdown challenged. He had insisted on his party fighting clean "to the point where we were in danger of looking over-pious and over-righteous". They might have "crossed the threshold on that a bit too far in this election ... I don't want to be the Saint Paddy of British politics".

Unlikely star, page 12
Peter Riddell, page 16
Leading article, page 17

MARC ASPLAND

On the up: Paddy Ashdown at a rally in Rochdale with Sir Cyril Smith, the former MP, and Liz Lynne, the Liberal Democrat candidate

Kinnock taunted by Tory gibes

BY NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservatives aimed a fresh blow at Neil Kinnock's *leadership qualities last* night in a party election broadcast that provoked a "dirty tricks" dispute.

The Labour leader was cast as an unprincipled man. His features were shown spinning like a revolving door to convey the message that, after his somersaults over nationalisation, Europe, devolution and nuclear weapons, he could not be trusted.

Such gibes are all part of campaigning and more can be expected in the next few days. But what upset Labour was an invitation for viewers to telephone the party's headquarters. The *Tories were trying to jam its* switchboard and sabotage its campaign for the night, said an official.

The Conservatives appeared to have engineered the spat to draw attention to their film. They also complained privately that Labour supporters had deluged central office with phone calls after their defence broadcast earlier this week.

*As the prime minister pri*vately voiced his contempt for the Labour leader and his campaign confessions of *past error, Kenneth Baker* mounted an assault on the "swaggering boyo" unmasked at Labour's extravagant rally in Sheffield on Wednesday night.

The home secretary said that for the first time in the campaign the artfully contrived sobriety of the "prime minister in waiting" was cast aside and the real Mr Kinnock was on show.

In a speech in Chepstow last night, Mr Baker branded the Labour leader a "demagogue", preaching to *a baying home crowd the* socialism that has otherwise been banished from the Labour campaign.

Quotes

❛ I would say Neil Kinnock, to get into Downing Street, would boil his granny down for glue ❜
— Jim Sillars, deputy leader of the Scottish National Party

❛ I'd nominate him for the Greta Garbo award for the leader that wants to be alone ❜
— Norman Tebbit on Paddy Ashdown

❛ He does have the air of a chicken pecking at a lot of corn on the ground when he is speaking ❜
— Norman Tebbit on Neil Kinnock

❛ Simple people use them ❜
— *Neil Kinnock on* soapboxes

❛ Gladstone had a soapbox, Churchill had a soapbox and they were both elected *prime minister* ❜
— John Major

❛ The Tories would rather have a Labour government in this country than give you fair votes and justice in the ballot box ❜
— Paddy Ashdown

❛ Anyone who thinks constitutional reform can be decided on a moment's notice *ought not to pick* up the phone. It's worth more than 10p in the box and two minutes consideration ❜
— Roy Hattersley

❛ John Major isn't going down the pan and neither am I ❜
— Michael Heseltine

Labour does not rule out referendum

Kinnock sets timetable for reform debate

BY JILL SHERMAN POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock yesterday ruled out legislation on electoral reform in the first Queen's speech of a Labour government. He disclosed, however, that the party's enquiry into electoral reform — now to be extended to include representation from other *parties — would be completed* within a year.

The Plant Committee was set up 18 months ago to investigate the need for changes in the electoral system. Speaking on Radio 4's *World at One*, Mr Kinnock said he would invite other parties to join the committee immediately after the election, but denied this would delay the committee's deliberations.

He made it clear, however, that no recommendations would be pushed through without a clear mandate. Although he has not ruled out a referendum he said he would prefer a general election mandate, effectively deferring legislation to a second parliament.

Asked on BBC2's *Newsnight* if a referendum might be held after the year the Plant Committee published its recommendations he said: "I think it is quite possible."

He criticised Paddy Ashdown for insisting on an undertaking for legislation in the next parliament when no party had a mandate for a form of PR. He also said that any proposals "must have reasonable proof of leading to a better system of representa*tion of Britain and a better* government in Britain. If these criteria are not met any changes would not be successful".

He denied that his new emphasis on consensus government was a contingency *plan for a hung parliament.* "We will be seeking consensus — not only to add to our majority, which would be useful — but in order to ensure that there is a new direction of government: a firm, strong government, of course, but a more open and accountable government that tries to win further support on the basis of argument."

Mr Kinnock has never been enthusiastic about electoral reform in the past and does not favour the PR system of single transferable vote backed by Mr Ashdown, which he fears could favour minority right-wing parties. The momentum for changing the Westminster system has followed Labour's pledge to introduce a from of PR — the *additional member system* — for the Scottish parliament.

He said he was open to the possibility of a Scottish par*liament, formed under a new* Labour government, becoming totally independent if the Scottish National Party achieved an overall majority, although such an event belonged to "political science fiction".

Earlier he defended his right to change his mind on issues such as nuclear disarmament. Speaking in Southampton, he said: "I actually think that people in a democracy respect a leader who will say I haven't been right all the way down the line. I have no monopoly of wisdom. If you have been wrong, acknowledge it and then get things right. It is much better than pushing on with ultimate follies like the poll tax."

Labour 'would bring a slump'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister yesterday prepared the ground for a sustained anti-Labour onslaught during the final days of the election campaign when he said that a Labour government would plunge Britain into a slump.

He coupled a renewed warning to Liberal Democrat supporters that they might be letting in Labour with an expression of scorn at both parties over the prospect of a deal between them on electoral reform.

"What a show of confidence," he declared on the cricket ground at Meopham, Kent. "One week before the election they start cuddling up to the Liberal Democrats for support. It is like leaning on candy floss."

With the Conservatives' most senior strategists now acknowledging that the polls are unlikely to show them in a clear lead before the election, Mr Major intends to concentrate in the remainder of the campaign on highlighting what he says is the choice between recovery under the Conservatives and slump under Labour.

He is to repeat his warnings that voting Labour or Liberal Democrat will have the same result, a Kinnock-led government. Yesterday he said proportional representation led only to "weak government, government by backstairs deal, government by smokescreen". Tomorrow he will make a direct appeal to wavering voters with advertisements in the Sunday newspapers setting out his personal vision for Britain.

Although the prime minister accepts that the polls are close, and has detected an irritation and frustration among some Conservative supporters about the recession, he has told friends that he is confident of winning the election next week.

Tory canvass returns are reported to show some slippage from the 1987 vote but the Conservative vote is said to be solid and strong.

FORWARD FAIRBAIRN

Constituency profiles: close fights in rural Scotland and Welsh valleys

SNP forces Fairbairn to try harder

BY BEN MACINTYRE

A LOOK of anguish passed briefly across the face of Sir Nicholas Fairbairn yesterday as a muddy ewe backed into his immaculate tartan trews. He prodded it gently forward, as one might a recalcitrant C2 voter.

The Conservative candidate for Perth and Kinross, celebrated for his eccentric sartorial habits and exhibitionist tendencies, seemed out of place at the Perth cattle and sheep market as he passed through the throngs of weather-worn farmers — a peacock in a chicken coop.

This was an uncharacteristically subdued Sir Nicholas, with little of his accustomed flamboyance, at a stage in the electoral campaign when one would expect him to be showing off as if there were no tomorrow. This is because, with the SNP seriously threatening his 5,676 majority,

PERTH AND KINROSS

1987 result: N H Fairbairn (C) 18,716 (39.6); J M Fairlie (SNP) 13,040 (27.6%); S Donaldson (L/All) 7,969 (16.9%); J W McConnell 7,490 (15.9%). Conservative majority: 5,676 (12.0%)

tomorrow — or rather next Thursday — is a distinctly uncertain prospect. Roseanne Cunningham, the Glasgow-based lawyer who is the SNP candidate, has been effectively chipping away at Tory support and even Sir Nicholas's closest advisers now admit that the vote is likely to be "extremely close".

After a brace of pre-lunch whiskies in the Round House bar, away from the mingled odours of manure and bacon baps, much of the old charm and chutzpah returned to the veteran politician with the panache of a Beau Brummel and the looks of Jack Charlton: "I'm completely confident. I've been all round the constituency. I have a large personal following, and I'm known everywhere I go."

As if to prove the point, a tall man in a waxed jacket passed and remarked: "My son's going to be in touch, Nicky, he needs you to sign his shotgun licence."

The general election in this constituency has a markedly local feel to it. A taxi driver pointed out that the Labour party was ahead in the polls "according to the gentleman that does the talking on the telly [Robin Day]", but added, "there's no danger of that here." Neither Labour nor the Liberal Democrats are expected to do well and the battle between the Tories and the SNP has focused almost exclusively on a single issue: Scottish nationhood.

Sir Nicholas, Jacobite by tradition but unionist by conviction, is adamant: "Scottish independence would be an unmitigated disaster for this constituency. The people will be taxed out of existence at five different levels." After discussion, he agreed that an independent Scotland would not have to pay British tax, but concluded that four taxes were bad enough. "The farmers are scared witless of what would happen under the SNP. Businesses would just take down their tents, like the Arabs, and steal away to England."

Certainly some of the farmers in this predominantly rural area fear that, as an independent nation, their livelihood might be threatened. Stewart Cameron, who farms 400 acres, said: "They think that we will get into Europe straight away, but there's no guarantee."

The long-term cultural and political effects of independence, Sir Nicholas says, would be still more dangerous. "If you split a fused people, the unionists would never forgive the destroyers. You would have in-built antagonism of a permanent nature: a Yugoslav situation; an Irish situation."

For a man who makes much of his 1,200-year-old Scottish roots, he is contemptuous of Scottish culture. "Look at the food — oatcakes, haggis, broth — it's all peasant fare. This was a peasant country before the union."

For Rabbie Burns he has even less time, recalling an occasion when he was asked to recite a poem at a Burns Night supper and strung together a litany of Gaelic-sounding nonsense. "Not a single person objected, and I got hundreds of letters afterwards complimenting me on my recitation. The whole Burns phenomenon is a bombastic fantasy. Practically nobody really reads the stuff, and fewer still understand it."

Many of the more eccentric elements in Sir Nicholas's political past have been jettisoned — the suggestions that victims of Third World famine and disaster should be issued with contraceptives rather than aid, that Olympic athletes should be encouraged to overdose on steroids, that Labour's "scruff brigade" should seriously attend to their wardrobes — and Britain's most extrovert MP has found himself in the position of having to campaign rather harder, and more seriously, than is quite comfortable.

Campaigners all: Michael Foot and his dog Dizzie support Huw Edwards, Labour candidate in Monmouth

Socialist free spirit enjoys the battle

BY TIM JONES

THE wind from the valley had a cutting edge and Barbara Bente wondered whether she had been wise to put out her geraniums. She was also fussing about buying "proper" milk as her guest might not like semi-skimmed. She need not have worried, for he took his coffee black and talked so seamlessly, it was cold before he finished it.

Although the mane is thinner now, Michael Foot, the man who once challenged for the highest post in the land, needed no introduction as he walked into the lounge of her house in Croes y Ceiliog, on the border of the Monmouth constituency. He was accompanied by Dizzie, his Tibetan terrier, and followed a little later by Huw Edwards, who overturned a 9,350 Tory majority to capture the seat in the May 1991 by-election.

Here, side by side, were the two faces of Labour: the old free spirit and the member of

BLAENAU GWENT

1987 result: M M Foot (Lab) 32,820 (75.9%); A R Taylor 4,959 (11.5%); D I McBride (L/All) 3,847 (8.9%); S Morgan (PC) 1,621 (3.7%). Labour majority: 27,861 (64.4%)

the new model army. Mr Edwards was dressed in the obligatory dark double-breasted suit, the red rose a splash of colour on his lapel.

Mr Foot, who contested and lost the seat in 1935 had about him the appearance of a man who had just completed a rather strenuous orienteering course. His yellow cane clashed with his beige windcheater, which clashed with his thick jumper, which clashed with his green striped shirt, which clashed with Dizzie's red lead.

Some of the 20 people packed into the comfortable lounge were floating voters, and one woman even admitted to having voted Tory. Mr Foot, the old warhorse, was not fazed. Since first being elected in 1945 as MP for Plymouth he has fought many tough battles. His time as Labour's leader ended with the terrible drubbing of 1983, but the tongue has lost none of its silver.

He dealt eloquently with the issues of the day — health, education and devolution — but could not resist referring to the days when he was just a boy. In one hour, he mentioned his hero, Aneurin Bevan, ten times. He remembered great gatherings before the television age, when halls were packed. Now he welcomed the televising of parliament, as he thought the press was beyond salvation.

Mr Foot told a man who threatened to vote for the nationalists unless he was given an elected assembly that a Labour victory would provide one. On proportional representation, he said there was a need for an open debate on the election process. Again, his memory enabled him to make a telling point. "I could never understand why the Liberals didn't introduce it when they had a majority."

Later, in the street of a council estate, he claimed he had no regrets about not becoming a prime minister. "Neil Kinnock can do a far better job than I could have done. Next week, the horror we have had for 13 years is going to roll off our backs. There will be huge relief. There will be a new spirit in the land."

Mr Edwards, whose victory is said to have prevented Mr Major from calling an election last year, was sure he would retain the seat. Mr Foot can be even more confident that the 27,000 majority he gained in 1987 in Blaenau Gwent will be held by the Labour candidate.

When the fight is over, Mr Foot, aged 78, will concentrate on writing a biography of H.G. Wells. He will not be going to the Lords.

Hustings jokes are wearing a bit thin

***Robin Oakley** finds that the hecklers are ahead in laughter polls*

When a questioner at yesterday's Conservative press conference announced himself as from *Living Marxism*, party chairman Chris Patten could not resist suggesting: "I didn't know it still was." Back came the reporter concerned: "It's more alive than your election campaign." That round to the left.

The jokes in this campaign have had to come from the press and the hecklers. The politicians have little humour left.

There are exceptions. Gordon Brown, the shadow trade secretary, making a warm-up speech for Neil Kinnock in Glasgow, speculated aloud on what would happen to some of the Conservative candidates well known in the Commons whose defeat he predicted. Michael Forsyth would return to the world of PR. Bill Walker, the gliding enthusiast known to fellow MPs as Biggles, would be "off to the wide blue yonder". And Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, QC, known to take a dram, would be "back to the Bar".

Political humour has long tended to be of a destructive nature and this election is no exception. Thus we have had Norman Lamont on Anthony Hopkins's Oscar success for *The Silence of the Lambs* by asking electors: "Isn't it enough to have one Welshman who's terrified half the country?"

Mr Kinnock suggested that Michael Heseltine "put the con into Conservative" and the prime minister "put the er ... er into Conservative".

Sometimes jokes are used as a deflection. When a platform full of Tory politicians was asked yesterday to say if they had ever made mistakes, Mr Heseltine said: "I'm humble enough to agree I've made mistakes." He added: "And politically acute enough to know I've forgotten what they are."

☐ Des Wilson confided to a hushed audience of hacks yesterday: "I have to tell you of a change of strategy in the remaining days of our campaign" (Sheila Gunn writes). As journalists shot forward over their notebooks, the Liberal Democrat campaign director went on: "Paddy has dropped the orang utan joke."

For those of us who were in at the birth of the orang utan — and required to sit through its repeated airings — the news lightened our hearts. But in a campaign sadly bereft of humour, maybe Messrs Ashdown and Wilson have made their first major slip.

A visit to Cyril, who was not at all confused

CAMPAIGN SKETCH

MATTHEW PARRIS

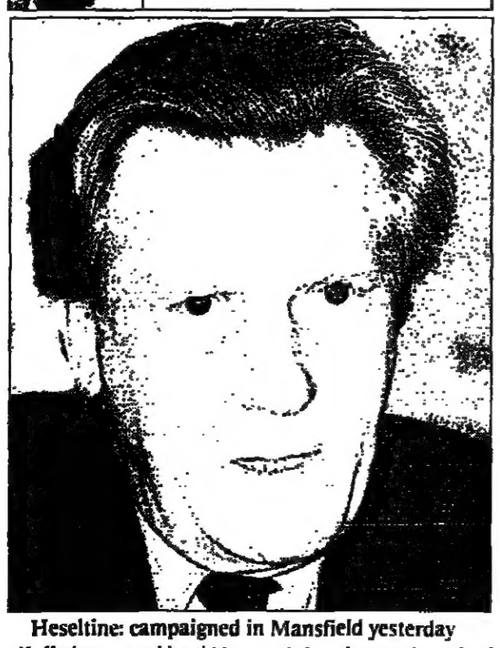
It has to be said that Mansfield took Michael Heseltine in its stride. "Well I saw this face," said a shopper to a friend, remarkably calmly, "and I said, I said, 'I know that face,' but I weren't sure, like, that it were 'im. So I didn't stop. I mean what with the bread still to get, and there's only so many hours in the day."

The media have been filled, recently, with breathless accounts of the hustle and shove of the staged visits of political household names to obscure marginal constituencies. What media people omit to mention is that the hysteria is caused by the media people themselves.

Regulars at the Swan looked up as Mr Heseltine entered — "Ooh! There's Tarzan — you know, the one on *Spitting Image*..." — giggled, and got on with their lager and crisps. Only at the door was there evidence that a politician can still arouse passions. An old gent sat, muttering through clenched teeth: " 'Ope 'e chokes on 'is soup. Wait till that booger cooms 'aht. I'm gonna give 'im one wi' me stick."

Within, Mr and Mrs Heseltine crouched over plates of steaming breaded scampi trying to talk politics while big fluffy microphones waved around their mouths and the TV lights kept their scampi warm.

Heseltine was talking to Gary Mond, the Tory candidate for the most marginal seat in England. Labour's majority is 56. Mr Mond, a



Heseltine: campaigned in Mansfield yesterday

self-effacing man with pebble glasses, was delivering a careful, but rather complicated résumé of Labour's plans to manoeuvre the UDM out of existence. Mansfield is UDM country. "Ah," interrupted Heseltine, scampi poised at lip, one eye on the camera and the other on the nub of the argument, "and bring Scargill back." He looked up triumphantly at his audience. They understood. Enough said. The scampi continued its journey.

In normal circumstances, given the anti-Tory swing, Gary Mond's chances this time could be written off as hopeless: but Mond's opponent, the incumbent Labour MP, Alan Meale, is not a normal circumstance. Meale is a phenomenon: in Mond's view an unpopular one. I called on the phenomenon.

Mr Meale has not been an MP for long, yet, if such honours were within his gift, he would already have promoted himself to the rank of general, decorated himself for valour, knighted himself, and made himself lord mayor of Mansfield. Bravado is his middle name. If he inhabited a western frontier town he would be Sheriff Meale. If Chicago were his home he would be Boss Meale, and if Mexico were his stomping ground El Numero Uno, El Gran Meale, or just El Jefe would not come amiss. In a car with a flashing orange light on top, this man knows Mansfield, is known by Mansfield, lords it mightily over Mansfield and — contrary to what the Tories believe — I suspect that Mansfield rather likes it.

His office, in a redbrick corner shop, sports a huge Commons portcullis on the window. A presentation bouquet of red roses, a gift to Mr Meale, adorns the generously proportioned Meale desk: and upon the walls are many signed photographs of Mr Meale with other world celebrities. "Meale was the guy who killed Jack Ruby," is one of his favourites.

"Where shall we go?" he said to me. "Here are some notes from my office about constituents wishing to be visited. There is a man," (let us just call him Cyril) "who has had a stroke and is confused. He may vote Labour. My note says: 'Ignore the Tory poster on his window.'

"There is Mr Northam. 'His wife has dementia.' Or there's Mr Roy, who's against pirate minibuses. 'May vote for you'."

We chose Cyril, the confused one with the Tory poster. "We'll soon have that off his window," said Meale in what I should like to, but cannot, describe as a caring voice. Cyril lives alone in a bungalow and at 70, a retired serviceman, he was struggling. Meale told him the Tories would privatise the NHS and that there were "only a quarter as many nurses as before". He told the old man he'd return after the election and sort out his pension problems. I had the impression Meale would keep his word. "Now, no more Tory posters," was Meale's parting remark, more a command than a request, "Barbara will bring you some nice Labour ones this afternoon."

Cyril had only one political worry to discuss. "How can either party pay for all these promises?" he asked, in trembling voice. His china rabbit and ornamental frog, peering quizzically down from the mantlepiece, seemed to echo the question.

Cyril was not, in your sketchwriter's submission, confused.

Regional patterns

Voters in the South drift back to Labour

BY IVOR CREWE

A SIGNIFICANT feature of the past three elections has been the marked regional differences in voting shifts. The prosperous South, especially London, has swung hard to the right, while the more deprived North only edged to the Conservatives in 1979 and 1983 and moved back to Labour in 1987. Scotland went its own way, barely moving to the Conservatives in 1979 and reverting to Labour as early as 1983.

An analysis of 13,000 respondents, polled across the full month of March, suggests that the pattern of 1979 to 1987 might be reversed on Thursday. This time the smallest anti-government swings are in the North and the largest are in the South. The national swing from Conservative to Labour is 6.1 per cent. But in the recession-hit South-West and South-East (excluding London) it is 9.6 per cent and 9.3 per cent respectively.

In Scotland, too, in spite of widespread talk of a collapse in the Conservative vote the swing is only 1.5 per cent. In London, where Labour's hard-left local councils have cost it votes in the past, the swing is slightly below average (although a Harris poll for London Weekend Television conducted this week puts it higher, at 7 per cent).

Some caveats need to be entered. Half the interviews were conducted before the second week of the campaign (and a quarter of them before the budget) and there may well have been some regionally distinct shifts since then.

Ivor Crewe is professor of government at the University of Essex.

REGIONAL SWINGS

	No. of Lab targets	C to Lab (%)	C to LD (%)	C loss	Lab gain	LD gain	Nat gain
SE & E Anglia	13	9.3	2.2	−17	+15	+2	–
London	24	5.1	2.9	−11	*+11	+1	–
South West	4	9.6	4.0	−10	+6	+4	–
West Midlands	10	5.2	0.3	−7	+7	–	–
East Midlands	7	5.9	1.7	−5	+5	–	–
Yorks & Humber	8	1.5	−0.9	−2	+2	–	–
North West	21	5.8	1.3	−15	+15	–	–
North	4	5.1	−0.5	−4	+4	–	–
Wales	6	7.0	0.6	−4	+5	−1	–
Scotland	5	1.5	−2.3	−3	+1	−2	+4
Great Britain	100	6.1	1.2	−78	+71	+4	+4

* Including one from Independent SDP. *Source: Gallup surveys, March 3-91, 1992*

Good-oh! Mr Bean gets a few insults and some nice chips

By Bill Frost

BUILDERS can be such a cruel bunch. Doffing his protective helmet in a gesture of mock respect, the man on the scaffolding called down: "Hello, Mr Bean, you're looking well today and you've got my vote. Had any good accidents today?".

Mr Bean, aka William Waldegrave, health secretary and Tory candidate for Bristol West, seemed mystified. "Ah, yes. Good-oh!" he said, frowning slightly. Mr Waldegrave, the brainiest man in the cabinet, likes saying "Good-oh!".

The health secretary can also muster up a very good impression of Basil Fawlty's wife Sybil when confronted by waverers. "I know, I know, I know," he entones sympathetically as they reel off reasons for not returning him to Westminster.

Carole Holmes, who runs an interior design business, looked distinctly threatening. Arms folded and foot tapping, she berated Mr Waldegrave roundly. "I'm really cross — really, really cross. All I've worked for these last 17 years has been lost because of this recession. How can I vote Tory again?"

In his best Sybil Fawlty, the health secretary tried to placate Ms Holmes: "I know, I know, I know. But how much worse it would be under Labour. Britain was ungovernable in 1979. You don't want that again, do you?"

The health secretary then hit the chip shop. "I don't normally like him eating these things," confided his wife, Caroline, with an indulgent smile. But when votes are at stake cholesterol is ignored. "Smashing chips," said Mr Waldegrave as the Greek woman proprietor pledged undying love and loyalty.

Mr Waldegrave regards campaigning as a medieval scholars' disputation. "It's a bugger to get him off the doorstep sometimes," said one of his team yesterday.

BRISTOL WEST

W A Waldegrave (C) 24,695 (45.5%); G R P Ferguson (L/All) 16,992 (31.3%); Mrs M C Georghiou (Lab) 11,337 (20.9%); Mrs G A Dorey 1,096 (2.0%); Ms V Ralph (Comm) 134 (0.2%). Conservative majority: 7,703 (14.2%)

"What is your line on Sunday trading?" asked the small serious woman in the travel agents. Like Ms Holmes's, her body language was all wrong — tightly coiled and venomous as a cobra.

"Well obviously some sort of accommodation must be reached . . ." But the trap had been sprung. "Sunday is God's day and very sacred. We Christians are in danger of losing it," hissed the woman. "I know, I know, I know. Er, yes," he replied.

Not every seed fell on unfertile ground though. "My hubby went in for his hernia and had it done in record time," said Mrs Ann Howles in an unsolicited testimonial of support for Mr Waldegrave and the NHS. "Good-oh, good-oh, good-oh!" laughed a relieved health secretary.

Samantha Lord at the estate agent's was a real challenge. "I've not made up my mind. But I like that Paddy Ashdown — he's got a bit of energy. It's nice to see a man get worked up," she cooed.

"I know, I know," said the health secretary with a thin smile. "But isn't it better to have a calmer man like John Major with his finger on the nuclear button?" Samantha wasn't quite convinced. "I dunno. I hate that Neil Kinnock," she said.

Peter Cowles, a local businessman, stopped Mr Waldegrave to complain about the lack of fire in the Tory campaign. "You're letting Labour get away with it. Why aren't Major and the others arguing the case?" Mr Waldegrave shrugged: "I know, I know. But the message will get across."

"The trouble with William is he's too much of gentleman," said one of his campaign team yesterday after a long morning on the stump. "He's too nice and too educated."

Did the health secretary himself regard an overdose of education and brains as a handicap? "It didn't seem to worry Gladstone or Enoch Powell. In fact, Enoch was even better at Greek than me," he said.

Lancashire struggles with Welsh question

By Ronald Faux

RIBBLE Valley has no outward sign of being a hive of xenophobes. There are no red rose banners, no Legions of John O' Gaunt and nothing approaching an Order of Crossed Clogs demanding autonomy for Lancashire.

This is the gentrified territory that David Waddington held for the Conservatives in 1987 with a seemingly unassailable majority of nearly 21,000, where people are generally charming, polite and, by nature, conservative — until their votes are taken for granted.

RIBBLE VALLEY

March 7, 1991 by-election: M Carr (Lib Dem) 22,377 (48.5%); N Evans (C) 17,776 (38.5%); Ms J Farrington (Lab) 4,356 (9.4%); D Brass (Ind C) 611 (1.3%); H Ingham (Grn) 466 (1.0%; Lord David Sutch (Loony) 278; S Taylor (L) 133; Ms L St Clair (Corrective) 72; S B F Hughes (Rav L) 60 (last four 1.2% of vote). Liberal Democrat majority 4,601 (10.0%).

When David Waddington went to the Lords and an outsider was chosen for last year's by-election, lips pursed, eyebrows rose and 12,000 Tories declined to vote. Never mind that Nigel Evans, a businessman from Swansea, was chosen by a local selection committee from 817 applicants. The trouble was, it seems, that Mr Evans was not only Welsh, he sounded Welsh and lived in Wales.

Some Tories turned to Michael Carr, the Liberal Democrat. A local greengrocer stood as an Independent Conservative. The Tory vote shrank from 30,000 to fewer than 18,000. The Liberal poll almost doubled and Mr Carr became MP.

Conservatives insist that the discontent has been resolved, that the voters are back in the fold and that it is inconceivable that Mr Evans will not be returned as MP. "The choice is clear between having a Welshman in Ribble Valley or having a Welshman at Number 10," Mr Evans says.

The Conservatives say that much is at stake in the region. Labour defence policies, Mr Evans says, would put an end to the European fighter project on which many North-west jobs depend, and British Nuclear Fuels would suffer from any winding down of the nuclear industry.

Mr Carr sees no sign of a swing away from him. "What I do see are small businesses clobbered by the uniform business rate and by a deep recession made worse by government policies. Unemployment may be low, but it has doubled and people here can see for themselves what is happening in neighbouring towns," he says.

TIM BISHOP

Crowded day: Norma and John Major facing the press and their paraphernalia during a visit to the privatised Medway Ports at Sheerness docks yesterday

Nationalists savour narrowing gap

Poll support of 31% puts heart into SNP

By Kerry Gill

"JUMP Scotland, jump! Ye kin dae it," wrote Professor Frederick Buchanan, an expatriate Scot for more than 40 years, from his rooms at the University of Utah. The professor, who left his native Ayrshire in 1949, may not be as famous as Sean Connery, but the Scottish National party has seized on his intellectual backing for independence as firmly as the populist exhortations of the film star.

After three weeks in which the nationalists have recorded healthy, if not spectacular, support of 27 per cent, a poll yesterday by Market Research Scotland showed them entering the last lap of the election within sight of Labour. The SNP leadership, despite hitherto private worries that the goal of 40 per cent might prove illusory, now believes Professor Buchanan's dictum, loosely derived from the American philosopher William James's "leap of faith", is a probability.

Donald Dewar, Labour's Scottish spokesman, dismissed the poll as a rogue. Whether it was hardly mattered; the nationalists had been delivered their best news in almost 20 years.

After a week in which the SNP had continued to reap the rewards of the most confident campaign in Scotland, its leader, Alex Salmond, was presented with poll results showing that the party enjoyed 31 per cent support, only seven points behind Labour, and an improvement on its vote in the 1979 election, when it won 11 seats.

The Conservatives, languishing on 21 per cent, were partly comforted that the nationalists appeared to be taking most of their growing support from Labour and the Liberal Democrats. Nevertheless, it bodes ill for Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, who looks certain to be defeated in Galloway and Upper Nithsdale by the SNP candidate, Matt Brown. His defeat will be a psychological as well as a material blow for the Scottish party.

Mr Dewar and his followers continue to emphasise that a vote for the SNP means another five years of Tory rule. Labour's attacks on the nationalists have increased in proportion to the SNP threat. Alex Salmond, the party leader, said he always believed that they enjoyed greater support than that shown by previous polls.

Mr Dewar said: "The poll exaggerates SNP support and under-estimates Labour's strength." Mr Salmond replied: "It shows that our bandwagon is forging ahead. We are well on course to catch and overtake Labour."

Twenty years ago the SNP slogans "It's Scotland's oil", "Rich Scots or poor British" and "Put Scotland first" eventually played against the party as it increasingly came to sound selfish. There are no such qualms in this campaign. "Independence in Europe" camouflages any lingering unease over the party's isolationism from its English neighbour. The leading letter in the *Scots Independent* suggests that England should be handed back to France. The latest campaign poster suggests that Michael Forsyth, minister of state at the Scottish Office, should be banished to England: "Michael ForSouth!"

John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, tacitly admitted that the nationalists were posing a greater threat than ever when, visiting Glasgow, he pleaded with Scots to ignore the nationalists as the only way to get rid of the Tories.

☐ Welsh nationalists today firmly ruled out pacts with either the Conservatives or Labour in the event of a hung parliament. Dafydd Wigley, the Plaid Cymru president, said its MPs would "keep their hands free" to consider every issue in the House of Commons on its merits.

"Both Labour and Tory parties should be fully aware of the fact that there is no question of Plaid Cymru entering into any coalition," he told a Cardiff news conference. "We will consider the proposals made in the first Queen's Speech of the new parliament in the light of the policies set out in our manifesto — and top of our agenda is a parliament for Wales."

Protester silenced by Tory anger

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

REG Preston, aged 78, hit trouble when he took his battle against the poll tax to the front line yesterday. Mr Preston was set upon by angry Conservative women when he launched a one-man protest against the prime minister at an idyllic village cricket ground at Meopham, Kent.

A blonde woman in her forties and two blue-rinsed grandmothers kicked and punched the retired Press Association sub-editor. One of them attacked him with her umbrella. They tore up his poster and trampled it into the mud in one of the few violent incidents of the election campaign.

Mr Preston, an oasis of protest in an adoring crowd, managed only a couple of barely audible boos as he waved his banner proclaiming: "Rich Tories are the real poll tax parasites." The women then silenced him, leaving a lone heckler from the Socialist Workers' Party to disturb Mr Major.

Mr Preston, of Higham, Kent, said later: "John Major speaks about hooligans but I have seen nothing on the television as vicious as this."

Labour's London lead whittled away

By Arthur Leathley

LABOUR'S lead in London has been pegged back, leaving the two main parties neck and neck in seats seen as crucial to their chances of election victory, an opinion poll suggested last night.

Each party has 40 per cent support in the capital, according to the poll, giving Labour a 7 per cent swing since the 1987 general election. Labour's two-point lead over the Tories in the equivalent poll last week has been whittled away, with the Liberal Democrats making a slight advance, increasing support by one point to 18 per cent. The Conservatives have remained static.

A 7 per cent swing would give Labour most of the capital's 21 Tory marginals it needs to become the largest party, but falls slightly short of the swing it requires nationally to win an overall majority at Westminster. The cross-London poll, conducted by Harris for LWT's *The London Programme*, indicated that Labour would gain 17 of the Tory London marginals, although last week's poll suggested that Labour would take all 21 seats.

The results indicated a reprieve for Tories in four of Labour's target seats, Erith and Crayford, Eltham, Edmonton and Fulham but would not save from defeat three ministers, John Maples (Lewisham West), David Mellor (Putney) and Angela Rumbold (Mitcham and Morden). The poll, conducted among 1,046 voters on Tuesday and Wednesday, was carried out when each of the two main parties returned to issues specifically affecting London.

Conservatives said that Labour's tax plans would hit Londoners harder than people elsewhere. It was Labour's concentration on the issue of unemployment, however, that more closely matched the dominant economic topic in the capital. More than half those polled and in work are more worried about losing their job than they were a year ago.

Labour returned to the unemployment issue yesterday, with Tony Blair, shadow employment secretary, saying that London was "the recession capital of Europe". Using figures supplied by British embassies in Europe, Japan and North America, he said that London and what was formerly East Berlin were "virtually in a category of their own". Over the past year, unemployment in London rose by nearly 54 per cent, he said.

Party lines, Saturday review, page 10

Yogic flyers appeal to voters

The Natural Law Party's campaign broadcast brings light for ***Melinda Wittstock***

BRIGHT-eyed men in grey suits with frightening fixed smiles and a penchant for levitation delivered the Natural Law Party's first election message to the nation last night. Followers of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi leapt slow-motion across BBC1 and ITV screens in full lotus position, moving neither to the right nor to the left, but far beyond the traditional spectrum of British politics.

Promising a "new coherence in national consciousness" that would "eliminate all problems throughout the country", Geoffrey Clements, the leader, calmly told viewers to avoid contributing to "political chaos" by voting for any of the more mainstream parties.

"A vote cast for any parties which oppose each other is a vote for conflict. It is not only a wasted vote but it is a destructive vote, a contribution to political chaos," he said.

Natural Law Party policies include eliminating VAT, reducing direct taxation to between 10 and 20 per cent and the halving of national health service costs. Also beaming at the camera during the broadcast was Doug Henning, a converted magician. "I'm an expert in making things disappear. My Natural Law Party will make the problems of the nation disappear, as darkness disappears with the onset of light," he said. After a spell of "yogic flying", Mr Henning, a candidate in Blackpool South, said: "I invite you to place your confidence in us."

The party, formed three weeks ago and backed by George Harrison, the former Beatle, is fielding 313 candidates in the election under the slogan "Only a new seed will yield a new crop". Its broadcast closed with a rainbow, the party's symbol, ranged triumphantly over Westminster.

Listeners of Radio 4's *Today* programme who did not switch off when it ended would have heard how the party, which has printed 12 million copies of its manifesto and advertised on 7,000 billboards, would banish stress, suffering and failure if given the chance to put its unified field theories of quantum physics at the nation's service.

Tory press conference

Ministers fear riots if Labour win

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN APOCALYPTIC vision of a run on the pound, higher interest rates and riots under an incoming Labour government was raised by the Conservatives yesterday as they insisted that theirs was the only party capable of rescuing Britain from recession.

David Mellor, Treasury chief secretary, said that all the engine of recovery needed was the "key of confidence" that would follow the government's re-election. He said that tremors in the City had been triggered by gloomy opinion polls for the Tories and were a forerunner of what would happen if Neil Kinnock won the election.

"Just a whiff of Labour was enough to set everything tumbling on Red Wednesday," he said. "The financial community has no confidence in Labour. They know Labour's promises do not add up. Labour's lethal cocktail of fiscal laxity, tolerance of inflation and economic mismanagement gave the City a bad case of the jitters."

At a London news conference designed to boost the Conservatives' flagging campaign by refocusing attention on economic management, Mr Mellor said that overseas investors would require a risk premium to hold sterling under a Labour government. City analysts expected the price to be an extra 2.5 per cent on interest rates.

Chris Patten, Tory party chairman, said that even the "passing shadow" of a Labour government had given confidence a knock. The reality would be far worse, with higher mortgages and an end to the prospect of recovery.

Michael Heseltine, environment secretary, said that a Labour revival would bring social unrest of the kind now being seen in France. "We are now seeing signs of recovery. Anyone who thinks socialism has got the answers has just got to cast their eyes over the Channel where the French prime minister has resigned and there are riots on the streets of Marseilles," he said. "All that is a hideous reminder of what happened when Labour was last in power."

Asked if he was seriously suggesting that the election of a Labour government would lead to riots, Mr Heseltine stuck to his guns. "Last time we had a Labour government, we had the winter of discontent. We have seen the dangers of organised labour whether they were in the winter of discontent or Arthur Scargill's National Union of Mineworkers. It was a Conservative government that brought about the changes that were necessary to ensure that the rule of law prevailed and had the guts to stand up to those people who were against such a return to a proper system of democratic government."

Michael Howard, employment secretary, said that there was every reason to suppose that "mob violence" would again disfigure industrial disputes because Labour would allow flying pickets and neuter the power of the courts to enforce the remnants of Conservative trade union laws.

When it was put to Mr Heseltine that the only riots in recent years were over the poll tax, he blamed the disturbances on the "won't pay, can't pay brigade" of the Labour party and the Scottish nationalists.

Mr Heseltine presented the Thatcher years as an era of unprecedented prosperity in which the competitive position of industry had been transformed. "I accept that the last two years have been difficult during a world recession, but essential competitiveness has not been lost," he said.

In remarks aimed at halting the Liberal Democrat advance, Mr Patten cited a Mori survey of businessmen for *The Financial Times*, which found that 80 per cent believed that a hung parliament would delay recovery. "A hung parliament would hang Britain and hang recovery," he said.

CHRIS HARRIS

Future hopes: Gerald Kaufman and Neil Kinnock at yesterday's news conference, where Labour presented itself as a government-in-waiting

Kinnock sets out plan for first 100 days

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock intensified his efforts yesterday to present Labour as a government in all but name by unveiling a programme for his first 100 days in power.

A central theme of Labour's campaign has been to burnish the authority of its leader and his senior colleagues by equipping them with luxury cars and imposing backdrops and by presenting their manifesto as a blueprint for national salvation. The underlying aim is to generate the political momentum that could sweep Mr Kinnock to power next Thursday, although some observers believe that his image-makers overstepped the mark earlier this week by striking such a triumphalist note at the 10,000-strong Sheffield rally.

Yesterday, Jack Cunningham, the shadow leader of the Commons, took the pretence a stage further by naming May 6 as the day of the Queen's speech and by inviting Mr Kinnock to set out his legislative programme for the three months to the summer recess. John Smith would hope to present Labour's first budget by the end of May, Dr Cunningham added.

Mr Kinnock singled out his party's £1.1 billion recovery programme as the way to fill the vacuum left by the government's indecision in the face of the recession and to restore business and consumer confidence. It would stimulate investment in manufacturing industry, jobs and skills, housing and transport. Consumer spending would be boosted by child benefit and pension increases. The shadow Chancellor's budget proposals would help first-time buyers, the driving force behind the housing market, and bring to life this key component of the economy, Mr Kinnock argued.

"These stimulants to recovery will be accompanied by improvements to the national health service and the education service," he told a London news conference, emphasising the £1 billion boost for hospitals and the £600 million for schools.

The Labour leader promised that by the summer three bills would have cleared their first Commons hurdle. Legislation abolishing the council tax, which Labour regards as "son of poll tax", and replacing it with "fair rates" would be introduced immediately the new House of Commons assembled.

A bill establishing a Scottish parliament would also be given a second reading in Labour's first 100 days. A freedom of information bill would complete the legislative trinity. Mr Kinnock said such a measure was an essential component of his comprehensive programme for constitutional change and stronger individual rights.

Mr Kinnock also said that Labour's much disputed plan for a national minumum wage of £3.40 an hour would be mentioned in the Queen's speech and enacted within the first session of parliament.

The Labour leader outlined the approach he would adopt to the British presidency of the European Community, which begins on July 1 and culminates in the Edinburgh summit in December. "Labour will ensure that Britain is in the first division in Europe," he said, accusing the Tories of dissipating Britain's influence in the EC.

Almost its first act would be reverse the Tories' refusal to sign the social charter on workers' rights. As early as the social affairs council on April 27, a Labour government would notify its EC partners that Britain intended to sign the document and unblock directives on temporary and part-time work and parental leave. These have been vetoed by the Tories on the grounds that they would impose much higher costs on industry and lose jobs.

"We will take immediate steps to secure the appropriate amendment of the Maastricht treaty and will, at the June meeting of the heads of government of the EC, sign the social charter," Mr Kinnock said.

Unlikely star steps into PR limelight

A shy professor with a daunting brief on reform talks to ***Mary Ann Sieghart***

A less likely man than Raymond Plant to be thrust into the party political limelight can scarcely be imagined. The professor of politics at Southampton University, who for two years has been chairing Labour's committee on electoral reform, is shy and unassuming, most at home discussing with his students the rise of social liberalism in the late 19th century.

Suddenly he has become the man who may well determine how British governments will be elected into the 21st century.

Neil Kinnock said on Thursday that, if he won power, Professor Plant's committee would be widened to include representatives of other political parties and lay members, perhaps from the church and industry. The move was seen as a tactical concession to the Liberal Democrats, perhaps even an act of desperation. Professor Plant, though, has been floating the idea since last November, on the ground that no constitutional reform should be made for narrow party advantage.

Until two years ago, the Labour leadership refused even to countenance electoral reform. Mr Kinnock was broadly opposed, but prepared to be swayed. The biggest block was Roy Hattersley, his deputy. But the old Labour objections to reform have receded.

Opponents used to argue that Labour needed a majority in order to enact a radical programme. Now that wholescale nationalisation is off the agenda, there is little in Labour's programme to which the Lib Dems would take exception.

Mr Hattersley and others argued that a move towards proportional representation would be seen as defeatist, an admission that Labour could never garner enough votes to win power on its own. To avoid that accusation, Mr Kinnock set up the Plant committee in 1990 when Labour was well ahead of the Tories in the polls. More than any other action in the party, it was a move made in response to strong grassroots pressure.

Professor Plant, though he has been a member of the party since he was 14 (he is now 47), had never before become involved in party business. "I am not good at canvassing or getting on soapboxes or anything like that," he says. But he is peerless at dissecting an issue down to its philosophical underpinnings. That task he performed as a fortnightly columnist for *The Times*.

He will not yet disclose whether he supports PR for elections to Westminster. He says: "I had the advantage of substantial ignorance, which gave me a degree of impartiality."

Parties to review soccer safety law

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THIRD and fourth division football clubs struggling to meet tough new safety standards could be reprieved, thanks to the general election. Legislation requiring them to remove the terraces and replace them with all-seat stadiums will be reviewed, whichever party wins next Thursday.

Roy Hattersley, who will become home secretary if Labour wins, promised yesterday to look again at the proposals in the Taylor report that followed the Hillsborough disaster.

Some clubs in the lower divisions face ruin because of the demand that their grounds should become seats-only by 1999. Mr Hattersley said that it was unreasonable to stop supporters standing at matches and that he wanted to ensure clubs were not forced out of business.

Ministers quickly moved to stop Labour getting a free run at the football vote. Within hours of Mr Hattersley's intervention, John Major let it be known that he, too, was prepared to rethink the legislation for the lower divisions.

While the general principle of all-seat stadiums was right, he was prepared to consider relaxing the blanket application to the third and fourth divisison clubs, Mr Major told colleagues.

The government seems unlikely to go as far as Mr Hattersley, who appeared to suggest that some of the higher division clubs might be helped. He said that some first division clubs would have difficulty meeting the deadline of August 1994 by which time all first and second division clubs must introduce full seating.

According to Mr Hattersley, the Taylor working group had said it was possible to have safe standing areas at soccer grounds. "If that is right, and I think it is right, it is unreasonable to insist on having seating everywhere and expect supporters to pay more."

Liberal Democrats

£6bn to create jobs

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A £6 BILLION package to create at least 600,000 jobs in two years through private enterprise and public investment was urged by the Liberal Democrats yesterday. Paddy Ashdown, the party leader, accused the other two parties of talking about tax rather than putting forward serious plans for breaking out of recession.

"Liberal Democrats have put forward an anti-slump plan to break out of the vicious spiral of recession: a £6 billion plan to build schools, modernise the railways, provide new hospitals and homes, all those things that we will need when the recovery comes," he said. He described the party's plans as a point of hope for those who despaired of ever rising out of recession.

Alan Beith, the party's Treasury spokesman, said that the secrets of economic success were well known elsewhere in Europe. They included more emphasis on education and training; more value on the individual; stable exchange and interest rates; and a modern political and voting system.

"We are falling right to the bottom of the European economic league," he said. "We must learn from our Community partners and have policies to take Britain to the top of that league."

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Clinton claws back support in volatile New York campaign

Bill Clinton's camp, now confident of the Democratic nomination, is seeking a non-political running mate, **Peter Stothard** in New York writes

Simon: warm-up act for Jerry Brown

BILL Clinton, the governor of Arkansas, is so buoyed by the sudden success of his New York primary campaign that key advisers have once more turned attention to the presidential race in November.

Top of the agenda is his choice of vice-presidential running mate: the first choice, according to a senior aide, is Colin Powell, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who has no known political affiliation but "is known to disagree with George Bush on a wide range of domestic policies".

In this "screwy year", to borrow President Bush's phrase, a powerful faction in Mr Clinton's team is convinced that a candidate from outside politics is essential to convince voters of a "commitment to change". The rise in the opinion polls of the potential third-party challenge led by the Texan billionaire, Ross Perot, has strengthened the case. A list of prominent Democrat businessmen is now being prepared.

Governor Clinton is also planning an overseas trip next month, probably to Britain. It is dangerous for primary campaigners to go abroad during an "America First" season back home. But, in preparation for a race against Mr Bush, some meetings in London, particularly if Neil Kinnock were the new prime minister, would be a boost, advisers say. The Clinton camp is keeping a close watch on the British election. It hopes a Labour victory would presage the end of the Reagan-Bush era just as Margaret Thatcher's triumph in 1979 ushered it in.

Mr Clinton's confidence yesterday rested on his own success in avoiding new errors and scandals and his opponent's decision to risk alienating Jews by embracing Rev Jesse Jackson as vice presidential running-mate. Observers doubt whether enough black voters will join Jerry Brown to compensate for Jews who recall Mr Jackson's "Hymietown" slur, in reference to New York, in 1984. General Powell could be expected to strengthen both Mr Clinton's international credentials and his support among black moderates. It is not known how he would react to an approach.

Spokesmen for Mr Brown yesterday vigorously defended the choice of Mr Jackson, arguing that it was not a new move and was necessary to build a coalition for genuine change. Mr Brown told a rally of students, most of whom were white: "I know it's controversial." But veteran election-fighters, even those close to the Brown campaign, judged there to be a big difference between a commitment to Mr Jackson in Michigan (which, to many New Yorkers, might as well be on the moon) and a front-page picture of the two men in *The New York Times*.

This weekend Mr Clinton faces one last known hurdle, a meeting with Mario Cuomo, the governor of New York, whom he referred to, in taped conversations with Gennifer Flowers, as a *mafioso*. Aides hope that Governor Cuomo will remain "well behaved".

The past seven days have been some of the most volatile of the campaign year. Last Sunday, many of Mr Clinton's closest supporters thought that New York was lost. By yesterday, however, the *New York Post*, previously Mr Clinton's tormentor-in-chief, had endorsed him, judging that "no single one of the stories disparaging his character, nor all of them together, suffice to undermine his candidacy".

Tuesday's dull day on "urban issues", in which Mr Clinton looked indistinguishable from any other big-spending politician, was, it seems, part of a deal with David Dinkins, the mayor of New York, to avoid having to discuss black crime and Aids in a forum dominated by Mr Jackson. One adviser remarked: "Having accepted Mayor Dinkins's offer, Governor Clinton could hardly slam inner-city orthodoxies on that occasion."

After Wednesday's speech on foreign policy had won respectful analysis, on Thursday the Clintons went to Wall Street. Imported supporters were placed behind him for the cameras while the real crowd, of hostile bankers and brokers, was allowed to provide background noise. The candidate drew groans with the words: "I have nothing against the stock market." Hillary Clinton looked cold and defiant. But on television the effect was of a football match with only one set of fans: "another Clinton win".

The would-be first couple had arrived late for its appointment with capitalism, leaving an impatient "time-is-money" audience to listen to records by the noted New York Democrat, Paul Simon.

Over at Greenwich Village's Washington Square, Jerry Brown was even later. His travelling gay-rights guitar duo, known as Murmur, were on stage so long that the kindly crowd screamed: "We'd rather have Bill Clinton".

Fortunately for Mr Brown, those waiting for him included Carly Simon, the superstar and New Yorker, who was urged on stage, in leather duffle coat and grey dress, to sing. The biggest cheers came for *Anticipation*. By the time that Mr Brown arrived, he was very much the "second billing" — just as he now seems likely to be on Tuesday.

Tripoli imam says lives of diplomats are at risk

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NICOSIA AND MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

IN AN attempt to step up pressure on foreigners in Libya in advance of the April 15 sanctions deadline, the imam of a Tripoli mosque gave a warning at weekly prayers yesterday that the lives of diplomats from those nations which had voted in favour of the United Nations resolutions were now in danger.

The threat in the sermon, broadcast live by Libyan television from the Moulay Mohammed mosque, came as ambassadors and heads of mission from European Community states held urgent discussions to plan a joint protest after well-organised mob violence against a number of embassies.

The cleric's threat came only hours after Libyan protesters told governments which voted for UN resolution 748 to pull out their nationals. "We say to these countries: evacuate your citizens and companies and end all interests with us," they said in a communiqué also read over Libyan television.

The sermon appeared designed to whip up anti-Western feeling among the Islamic faithful. It was described by diplomatic sources as part of a blatant, government-orchestrated campaign which may not at all times be acknowledged by Colonel Muammar Gadaffi.

Referring to those countries which supported limited sanctions, including a cut in air links and arms supplies, the imam demanded that their embassies be closed, their companies nationalised and their citizens evacuated.

The sermon was followed by a sabre-rattling broadcast on Libyan state radio urging all Arab governments to implement joint defence agreements and mobilise their resources for "the decisive confrontation", the outcome of which would decide the fate of the Arab nation.

In face of the mounting threats, Western diplomats in Tripoli contacted by telephone said there was no sense of panic among the large foreign community. Many of the expatriate workers on high, tax-free salaries which they could not hope to match elsewhere have shown little inclination to leave so far.

The two British diplomats manning the British interests section in the Italian embassy, again protected yesterday by riot police, said that they had received no instructions about leaving.

The Russians, formerly Libya's closest ally, were among the nations singled out for most popular anger. "The former Soviet Union was politically supportive of Libya, so they feel very hurt that we did not use the veto or abstain," one Russian diplomat explained. "We warned Libya that if something happens to our citizens, it will be bad for bilateral relations."

The Russian foreign ministry said yesterday that Libya had apologised for the attack on its embassy in Tripoli and promised nothing of the sort would happen again. The apology came in response to a protest delivered to the Libyan charge d'affaires in Moscow on Thursday.

According to Sergei Yastrmzhembsky, the new Russian foreign ministry spokesman, the Libyan side had insisted the attack did not reflect Libyan policy towards Russia. He said the Russian embassy in Tripoli had suffered "serious damage" in the attack, which followed Russia's vote for sanctions against Libya in the security council.

Pressure on Gadaffi increases

BY MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN and its European partners were yesterday insisting on guarantees from the Libyan authorities over the safety of diplomats and foreigners in Libya, and said they would keep up pressure on Colonel Muammar Gadaffi through the United Nations.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said in a BBC Radio 4 interview that the Libyan demand for a withdrawal of foreign missions did not appear to be official policy but had come from demonstrators. The situation was still "confused, uncertain, unsatisfactory".

France, Russia and others protested about the attacks on their embassies, and Libyan diplomats in Europe received protests in most Western capitals. Libyan authorities have stepped up security outside the damaged embassies.

Diplomats said yesterday that Colonel Gadaffi appeared to be surprised by the UN's stance, having believed a face-saving formula would prevent him having to hand over the Lockerbie suspects. He is said to fear a military strike, and was preparing to turn over the two wanted men, but came under pressure from Major Abdel-Salam Jalloud, his deputy, who is related to one of the suspects. Diplomats said that Major Jalloud, the strongman of the regime, might attempt a coup if Colonel Gadaffi complied with the UN's demands and that might bring a more revolutionary fundamentalist government to power.

Since the UN vote on sanctions, Libyan intermediaries have made no more proposals for a face-saving formula. Western diplomats say that Colonel Gadaffi has put himself in a corner from which he cannot escape without losing face or power. They doubt that increased pressure would force him to give in.

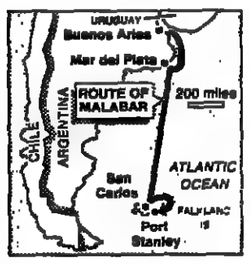
Islanders spurn hand of peace

An Argentine peace boat that sailed to Port Stanley found a hostile reception, **Gabriella Gamini** in Buenos Aires writes

AFTER braving 1,800 miles of some of the world's roughest waves and gale force winds, the *Malabar* was not allowed to dock at its final destination and forced to turn back. The Argentine sailing boat had left Buenos Aires on February 19 on a mission to the Falkland Islands, where it arrived on March 3, in what the crew called "an interchange with the islanders to get over the war". But they were not welcome.

"We decided to head to the Malvinas as a sign of friendship, ten years after the conflict between Britain and Argentina. It was to prove that the Argentinian people want to re-establish some link with the islanders," said Ruben Seijas, one of the nine crew members on the *Malabar*. Malvinas is the Argentine name for the Falklands.

After leaving Argentina on February 19, the ten-metre long, wooden sailing boat was forced to seek shelter from a storm for four days at Mar del Plata. The boat sighted land again on March 3 as it approached the Bay of San Carlos. Three days sailing later, it hugged the coast and arrived just off the islands' capital, Port Stanley, where the crew of eight Argentinians and one British translator, Paul Clark, had hoped to deliver some 300 letters from Argentinian primary school children asking for pen pals in the Falklands.



But the *Malabar* flying its Argentine flag, was met by the Falkland Islands harbour patrol, ordered to anchor on a buoy in the outer harbour of Port Stanley and then asked to turn back towards the Argentine coast immediately. "They ordered us to pull down our flag and fly the British one. One of the patrollers pulled the Union Jack from his pocket and told us to raise it immediately," recalls Señor Seijas. "They thought we were trying to land by force to make a statement about how the islands belong to Argentina.

In 1989, another Argentine sailing boat, the *Patagon* had evaded radars and sailed through a 200 mile exclusion zone to arrive at Port Stanley, but was then turned back. Since the renewal of diplomatic relations between Britain and Argentina in 1990, the exclusion zone has been reduced to 12 miles. "Our trip was not meant to be belligerent. We wanted to meet some Falkland islanders and have some kind of communication with them, to improve our relationship," said Señor Seijas. "Since the war ten years ago there has been so much animosity between us, we thought we'd try an establish an interchange.

He says he went on the trip because he felt angry at the animosity caused by the Falklands conflict. Among the crew were two Argentinian television cameramen and one Falklands conflict veteran. "His trip was meant to get rid of the guilt which he felt after the death of 15 soldiers under his command in a war which he claims had been a bad mistake for Argentina," he said.

The *Malabar's* captain, Antonio Lopez, had done the trip before on the *Patagon*. "He had failed then and wanted to achieve it now, since he felt that relations had improved," Señor Seijas said. The crew claims to have sailed around the islands towards Port Stanley for three days without being intercepted by other ships. "We could have landed at any spot, but wanted to request authority. We kept radioing our positions but never received a reply. Then one morning we heard the local radio reporting our arrival. It said we were not welcome and would not be allowed to dock."

Seijas says the local radio station reported that the Falkland Islanders had done a poll to see what local feelings were towards the intruders. "Apparently there was a majority who felt we should not be allowed to dock, so that decision was taken," he said.

Dead remembered: bereaved Argentinians in Buenos Aires yesterday paying their respects to those they lost in the Falklands war ten years ago

Noriega remains a danger to Bush

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

GENERAL Manuel Noriega, the former Panamanian dictator, has long since been usurped by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq as America's number one villain. But he is still dangerous to President Bush.

The jury in his seven-month trial on drugs charges finally began its deliberations yesterday, and his acquittal in this election year would gravely embarrass a president who in December 1989 dispatched 25,000 US troops to Panama to capture him.

In a last dramatic flourish on Thursday, Frank Rubino, the principal defence lawyer, walked over to General Noriega, who was wearing uniform and listening on headphones to a Spanish translation. In a clear assertion that he viewed the trial as political, Mr Rubino told his client to stand up, draped his arm round his shoulders, and asked the jury: "Are you going to find him guilty of being a military dictator?"

Panama's self-styled "maximum leader", who claims to have found God during his 29-month incarceration in Miami, is facing ten charges of accepting millions of dollars in return for making his country a safe haven for Colombia's Medellin cocaine cartel. He can receive a sentence of up to 160 years in prison if he is convicted.

Summing up for the prosecution this week, Myles Malman denounced the general as "nothing more than a corrupt, crooked and rotten cop" who had put "tons and tons of powdery white death" onto the streets of American cities.

But Mr Rubino pinpointed the weakness of the prosecution's case when he called its principal witnesses "the scum of the earth". Eighteen of them were convicts offered deals to testify. These included reduced sentences and generous financial rewards.

Mr Malman offered the standard argument in drugs cases that little fish must be used to catch big ones, but Mr Rubino countered that the indictment "stinks ... from here to Washington". The case was "based on what someone said that someone said that someone said about General Noriega", he added.

A unanimous verdict is required on each charge. If he is convicted on any, General Noriega's lawyers plan to begin an appeal process that could take years. If acquitted, he would be sent to Tampa, Florida, where he faces separate charges of marijuana smuggling. In Panama, where there has been little change for the better since Mr Bush ordered the American invasion, the general faces still more charges, including murder.

Mandela asks West to patrol townships

Johannesburg: Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, has called for an international monitoring group to be deployed in black townships wracked by political violence (Gavin Bell writes).

Mr Mandela was speaking to reporters after touring Alexandra, on the east side of Johannesburg, where at least 11 people were killed and more than 30 wounded in two days of clashes this week between ANC supporters and Zulu militants of the Inkatha Freedom party.

Accusing Pretoria of being unable or unwilling to curb the fighting, he said: "We want an international, independent monitoring group because the government is not using the powers it has." The ANC plans to submit its proposal to the Organisation of African Unity.

Nurses walk out

Tokyo: About 80,000 nurses from some 750 hospitals throughout Japan deserted their posts for between 30 minutes and half a day to hold rallies supporting their demands for more pay, higher staffing levels and fewer night shifts. *(Reuter)*

Support wanes

Nairobi: Support for a two-day general strike called by the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy, Kenya's main opposition group, appears to be waning after riots here and elsewhere in the country in which police shot and wounded three people. *(Reuter)*

Roh opposed

Seoul: Thousands of students, shouting for the overthrow of President Roh Tae Woo, demonstrated in cities against alleged vote-rigging in parliamentary elections. They said there would be a nationwide anti-government spring campaign. *(AP)*

Coup marked

Conakry: Guinea marked the eighth anniversary of military rule by legalising 17 of 35 political parties which have applied for registration, Alseny Rene Gomez, the interior minister, said. The applications of seven parties still have to be examined. *(AFP)*

Arabs killed

Gaza: Three Arabs accused of collaborating with Israel were found dead after earlier clashes between Arabs and Israeli security forces in the occupied Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, a Palestinian activist wanted by Israel was found stabbed to death. *(Reuter)*

Delhi accused

Delhi: The Indian government has placed the north-eastern border state of Nagaland under direct rule to try to impose political stability, provoking the opposition to accuse it of interference and "gross constitutional impropriety". *(Reuter)*

Penalty levied

Tokyo: The Mitsubishi company, which had no art dealers' licence when it bought two Renoir paintings for £15 million in 1989, has been ordered by the Tokyo public safety commission to suspend its antiques business for a week as a penalty. *(Reuter)*

Cold front

Port Stanley: An iceberg measuring 35 by 20 miles which broke free from the Antarctic coast last August is heading towards the Falk-

Li Peng sails serenely through his public humiliation

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

AFTER weeks of back-stabbing behind closed doors, China's annual parliamentary session ended yesterday with inscrutable smiles, a solitary outburst of heckling, and another important victory for Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader, aged 87.

Li Peng, the prime minister, sat serenely on a podium at the front of the Great Hall of the People as more than 2,000 deputies voted to approve 150 revisions to his work report. Although the prime minister did not face a vote of no-confidence, the extensive amendments, engineered by the Mr Deng, amounted to much the same thing.

Foreign journalists strained from the gallery with the help of binoculars to read the expression on Mr Li's face, but learnt little about his state of mind. The revisions included — most painfully for the prime minister — an attack on left-wingers or hardliners, the category in which he himself is placed by many people. Suddenly his supporters vanished into the woodwork. Only ten people voted against the revisions, and another 27 abstained: 2,583 voted in favour.

The closing session erupted just once into something vaguely reminiscent of *Today in Parliament*. As the vote was announced on the approval of the controversial Three Gorges Dam, Huang Shunxing, a deputy, stood up and shouted his objections, angrily waving a sheaf of papers.

Leaders seated on the podium ignored him, and while excited foreign journalists rushed up to interview him, reporters from official Chinese publications pretended nothing was happening.

This was unusual behaviour in China's traditionally docile parliament, and it transpired that Mr Huang was no ordinary deputy. He defected from Taiwan in the 1970s, and therefore enjoys more lenient treatment from the authorities. He staged a similar protest against the dam in 1988, and has told reporters that he is "rather upset" that he is the only deputy ever to stand up and be counted among its opponents.

Indeed, 177 deputies voted against the dam, and 664 abstained, which meant that a third of the deputies did not vote in favour. Many deputies are concerned that the project, which will cost at least £5.8 billion) and will necessitate the resettlement of more than a million people, will prove to be a big mistake. Proponents of the dam, including Mr Li, say it will provide a seventh of China's energy needs and will help prevent flooding on the lower reaches of the Yangtze River.

As the vote was announced, deputies broke into loud applause. It was, however, unclear whether they were celebrating the approval of the dam or expressing their support for the bold opposition.

Deng: he engineered report's amendments

Yeltsin sets stage for tough congress

Russia threatens to seize Black Sea fleet

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

IN A day of hectic politicking in Moscow, President Yeltsin yesterday threatened to take the Black Sea fleet under Russian command if Ukraine persisted in claiming the larger share of vessels. He also accepted the resignation of Gennadi Burbulis, a leading member of the government who has been the target of merciless criticism from the opposition.

The two moves appeared to be part of Mr Yeltsin's effort to optimise his support and settle as many separate lobby-groups as possible before the opening of the Russian Congress of People's Deputies on Monday. The congress is likely to be evenly balanced between supporters and opponents of Russia's reform programme. Mr Yeltsin will need every vote he can get.

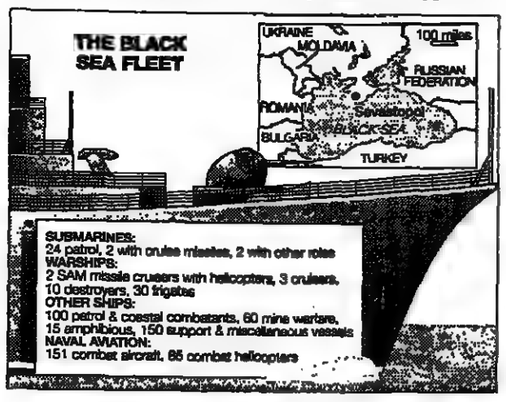
Yesterday's developments came after the replacement of Yegor Gaidar as finance minister on Thursday, which allowed the opposition to claim a small victory and removed the radical finance minister from criticism next week. Mr Gaidar retained his post as first deputy prime minister and his role as economic reform chief, leaving the balance of Mr Yeltsin's team intact.

The resignation of Mr Burbulis strengthens the position of Mr Gaidar, who is now the only first deputy premier. Mr Burbulis, a former philosophy professor from Mr Yeltsin's home town of Yekaterinburg — formerly Sverdlovsk — is detested by many outside the president's immediate circle, partly because of his closeness to Mr Yeltsin and partly because of his outspoken manner and anti-communist views.

As first deputy prime minister, Mr Burbulis looked after politics, a responsibility he can well fulfil in his post as state councillor, which he retains. His sacking had been demanded by several mildly reformist political groups as their price for supporting the government and its reform programme at the congress.

Mr Yeltsin's forthright statement on the Black Sea fleet, and the dispatch of Aleksandr Rutskoi, the vice-president, to its Crimean base, Sevastopol, can also be seen as part of the pre-congress positioning. Earlier this week, as talks appeared to be failing, President Kravchuk of Ukraine, had insisted that his republic would take as much of the fleet as was sufficient to ensure its security.

Had Mr Yeltsin left Mr Kravchuk's claim unanswered, he would have been barracked on Monday by the many Russian deputies with military connections who believe that the Russian leadership has been too soft with Ukraine and other republics over the division of the former Soviet armed forces. As violence increases in Moldavia, with its predominantly Russian enclave of trans-Dniester, Mr Yeltsin could not afford to leave his stance unclear. Two days earlier he had issued a decree placing the 14th army, which is stationed in Moldavia, under Russian jurisdiction. This appeared to be an attempt to clear up the army's status and keep the troops out of the conflict, but it may also have been directed at congress.



MOSCOW NOTEBOOK by Bruce Clark

Ghoulish show takes over park

Not in their darkest nightmares can the former masters of the Soviet Union have imagined the fate that would befall the Exhibition of Economic Achievements, a piece of sprawling Moscow parkland where wide-eyed visitors from the remotest provinces would come to marvel at their country's greatness.

Barely a couple of years have passed since the authorities stopped renovating the pavilions where the successes of the communist state in every field from space exploration to the breeding of rabbits were triumphantly displayed. But already the exhibition centre's grandiose spires, columns and monuments to socialist realism look like some freak survival from another epoch.

As though to drive home the triumph of capitalism, many of the pavilions have been taken over by the brassy new commodity exchanges that have supplanted the Communist party at the apex of economic power and are often run by precisely the same power-hungry individuals.

Dotted around the half-quaint, half-grotesque monuments are large signs advertising the sale of "American consumer goods". In the makeshift emporiums they tout, dollars are in and banknotes, bearing the likeness of Lenin, very much out.

So the park, known as Vay-Day-En-Kha from its Russian acronym, was perhaps a natural home for a distinctly ghoulish international fair devoted to a phenomenon that communists used to regard as an evil peculiar to capitalism: crime and its prevention. A brass band played cheerful ditties and impeccably groomed young ladies were on hand to dish out brochures. But there is only so much you can do to beautify an exhibition whose main items are guns, bullets, helmets, tear-gas canisters and flak-jackets.

While the main exhibitors and organisers of the fair, known as Milipol-92, were French and German, one of the largest stands was set up by Israeli Military Industries. Here fans of the Kalashnikov were offered an impressive range of sub-machineguns from the Uzi family.

But who are the exhibition's target customers? First, police forces all over the former Soviet Union who often find themselves in the frontline of small ethnic wars.

Second, the huge number of private security firms providing Russia's hot new rich with superior forms of protection against a wave of violent crime.

Cabinet roles: Bernard Tapie, left, the millionaire Marseilles socialist who was appointed minister for urban affairs in Pierre Bérégovoy's new French cabinent yesterday, and Ségolène Royal, a former deputy who becomes minister of the environment

Italian voters swayed by fears of political chaos

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALY'S election campaign ended yesterday with Giulio Andreotti, the prime minister, nervously watching a performance of Verdi's *Requiem* at the Rome Opera as if it might somehow augur defeat for his embattled Christian Democrats.

Pundits agree that the outcome of the polls tomorrow and on Monday is more unpredictable than in any political contest held in Italy since 1948. The Christian Democrats repeatedly have said that Italy could become ungovernable if the electorate does not return Signor Andreotti's ruling alliance of Socialists, Social Democrats and Liberals with another absolute majority.

Polls suggest the Christian Democrats' appeal to avoid political chaos, echoed by the Socialists, has persuaded some Italians tempted to cast protest votes for the opposition Republican party, the devolutionist League of the North and the Rete (Network) anit-Mafia movement. But disillusion with the political caste in power since the second world war was not diminished by Christian Democrat and Socialist squabbling during the campaign.

Bettino Craxi, the Socialist leader, is favourite to be prime minister in a deal that would see Signor Andreotti, or Arnaldo Forlani, his deputy, replace President Cossiga in July. But the Christian Democrats indicated they would seek the support of the former communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) if the Socialists try to block electoral reform.

Strong support for the league and Umberto Bossi, its fiery leader, in the north means the Christian Democrats do not expect to match their score of 34 per cent at the last election in 1987. The Socialists are unlikely to better their previous score of 14 per cent. A Christian Democrat slide to 30 per cent could deny the ruling parties a majority even if the Social Democrats and Liberals retain their shares of 3 per cent and 2 per cent respectively in the 630-seat Chamber of Deputies.

Both the Republicans, who expect to improve significantly on their 1987 showing of 3.7 per cent, and the PDS, which hopes to garner 17 per cent, would demand more radical institutional reforms than Signor Andreotti wants as a price for entering a widened coalition. Signor Andreotti became a life senator last year and is not standing for re-election.

Audiences hooked by sex queen's campaign

FROM PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

IN AN election campaign both bizarre and uncertain, Moana Pozzi, Italy's queen of erotica, has attracted the biggest television audiences of all the candidates.

Tall, blonde and gorgeous, she can illustrate the platform of her Party of Love in clear terms, and in better Italian than many traditional politicians. By next week she will probably be in parliament.

The party is based at the offices of a booking agency for pornographic stars outside Rome. One room displays posters of the agency's actresses in poses that leave little to the imagination. The other is decorated with a mural depicting naked men and women sleeping in the shade of friendly trees or frolicking across rolling green fields.

Signora Pozzi, in flat shoes and a sensible dress, receives visitors. "We are a party of the centre," she explains, "with particular interest in abolishing censorship, legalising prostitution, sexual education in schools and protecting the environment. If elected we will join with anyone on these issues, but my personal feeling is to work with the Radicals and the Greens."

Bérégovoy wins quick approval

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

PIERRE Bérégovoy, the new French prime minister, yesterday announced his cabinet team after weeding out ministers judged surplus to requirements because of age and incompetence or the stains of scandal and suspect political allegiance.

Encouraged by an opinion poll indicating that half the French approve of his appointment, M Bérégovoy appears to have taken aboard the lessons of the ten months in office of Edith Cresson, his predecessor, who resigned on Thursday. He insisted on the right to select his own team.

Although no new centrist notables could be persuaded to accept jobs with a general election only a year away, the new line-up is designed to convince an electorate that its message has been understood after the Socialists were badly defeated in recent regional and local elections.

Six new names feature in M Bérégovoy's list, two of them women. Ségolène Royal, aged 38, becomes environment minister in place of Brice Lalonde, of Génération Ecologique, and Marie-Noëlle Lienemann, aged 41, becomes housing minister.

Bernard Tapie, the Marseilles millionaire, becomes urban affairs minister as a reward for beating off the challenge of Jean-Marie Le Pen and the National Front in the regional campaign in the Cote d'Azur. As accomplished a political brawler as M Le Pen, M Tapie, aged 49, is not a Socialist party member, but M Beregovoy said he was a "a man of action, a fighter", against racism.

Lionel Jospin lost his portfolio as education minister to Jack Lang, the Socialists' man for all seasons, who remains minister of culture and Elysee Palace spokesman. Roland Dumas, the veteran foreign minister and M Mitterrand's closest ally, stays in office and Pierre Joxe, another loyalist, remains defence minister. Jean-Louis Bianco, the president's former chief of-staff, retains the transport ministry.

To replace himself in the finance ministry, M Bérégovoy appointed Michel Sapin from the justice ministry. It is widely believed that the new government will stand or fall on its success in persuading the French that, despite rising unemployment and growing social tensions, good times will come soon.

Kozo Watanabe, Japan's trade minister, yesterday told a news conference that Mme Cresson's departure was a good thing and welcomed her replacement. "The new person is better than someone who had been criticising Japan from morning till night."

Wolfgang Münchau, page 22

PEOPLE

Marcos to make his final trip

Frank Malabed, undertaker to the late **Ferdinand Marcos**, the Philippines dictator, will fly to Hawaii next week to prepare the body of the former president for its final homecoming. "I have to wash and clean the body thoroughly, change the casket, and then we come home," he said.

The Marcos family wants to bring the body home on April 12 with burial scheduled for nine days later. **Imelda Marcos**, his widow, has promised a "simple soldier's funeral".

□

Prince Edward is to tour the South Pacific in July. He will visit Tonga, Western Samoa and the Cook Islands.

□

Ringo Starr, showed he has lost none of his wit when he announced a forthcoming world tour. When an executive from the tour's sponsor Alberto VO5, maker of hair care products, spoke about Ringo's audience, he quipped: "A lot of them are bald."

□

Danny DeVito is directing *Hoffa*, a fictionalised account of the life of **Jimmy Hoffa**, former leader of the American Teamsters union. The film focuses on his life, not his unexplained disappearance in 1975. **Jack Nicholson** plays Mr Hoffa, who is presumed dead.

Peace charmers: two women soldiers of the Dutch contingent of the UN force in Croatia wave to local residents on arriving in Zagreb yesterday

Serbs lay siege to Bosnia town

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

BOSNIA-Herzegovina's descent into war gathered pace yesterday as Serb militiamen continued their assault on the northern town of Bijeljina.

The Belgrade news agency Tanjug said dozens had been killed and barricades had appeared around the Serbian stronghold of Banja Luka. There were also shootings in the southern town of Mostar and in Bosanski Brod on the Croatian border.

Alija Izetbegovic, the president of Bosnia, claimed that an upsurge in violence was being staged in an attempt to deter European Community foreign ministers from recognising Bosnia on Monday. But there were fears yesterday that the fighting was taking on its own momentum.

Fikret Abdic, a Muslim member of the Bosnian presidency who tried to get into Bijeljina, was held at gunpoint before being turned back by the Serb militia leader who goes by the *nom de guerre* Arkan. Although Bijeljina is mainly Muslim, the surrounding area is Serbian. The buildings which Serbs claimed to have "liberated" included the town's mosque, from which, they said, Muslim snipers had been firing.

The Yugoslav army and the Bosnian police have avoided involvement in the Bijeljina fighting which, on the Serbian side, appears to be led by Arkan's militiamen. Arkan had said that once United Nations peacekeeping troops were deployed in Serbian-controlled areas of Croatia he would either return to his pre-war job of pastry shop-owner or move to Bosnia. He is reputed to have links with Serbia's interior ministry.

A month ago Croats and Muslims, who comprise 61 per cent of Bosnia's population, voted overwhelmingly for independence. Serb leaders have threatened war if Bosnia is recognised before the republic is divided into ethnic regions.

General Satish Nambiar, the commander of the UN peacekeeping force for Yugoslavia, has insisted that the deployment of his troops will not be delayed by the fighting in Bosnia. The force is headquartered in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital.

East German ghost returns to infuriate former viewers

In a surprise comeback, the BBC-trained "red Goebbels" provided an unwelcome reminder of the bad old days, **Anne McElvoy** writes from Berlin

KARL Eduard von Schnitzler, despised by citizens of the former East Germany for his propagandist television shows, has made a surprise and unwelcome comeback. To the dismay of viewers who thought that they had seen the last of him in 1989, he has returned to their screens.

Herr von Schnitzler, known as the "red Goebbels" for his ability to twist facts and his vicious attacks on the then West Germany, was featured in a 45-minute documentary late on Thursday night. He was allowed a long peroration on the ills of the united Germany in the familiar style of his former weekly *Black Channel* commentary.

The *Black Channel*, initiated in 1961 by Walter Ulbricht, the East German leader of the time, to counter Western propaganda after the building of the Berlin Wall, was the programme East Germans loved to hate. Herr von Schnitzler, a communist who came from a wealthy aristocratic family, even became part of the language. In East German parlance a "Schni" was the unit of time it took to leap from an armchair to press the off switch whenever his face appeared on screen.

This time his sermons were directed at the new Germany's ambitions in Europe. "The iron battle for domination of the continent has broken out in full," he proclaimed. "The conquest of East Germany was Bonn's first step on the road to total domination of Europe." He blamed the Bonn government for the dismemberment of Yugoslavia and the break-up of the Soviet Union, and accused Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, of supporting the move from "quiet distant Bonn on the Rhine" to the "Reichs-capital Berlin" in order to control territory extending to the Urals and the Black Sea.

Captured by the Canadians and sent to Britain as a PoW during the second world war, Herr von Schnitzler caught the eye of Hugh Carleton-Greene, then director-general of the BBC, and was trained to take over as director of the British-run North German Radio after the war. To the dismay of the Western allies, however, he began to use the station for pro-Soviet propaganda and soon defected to the East.

Several politicians, including Jorg Schwablein, the leader of Thuringia's Christian Democrats, had called for Thursday's programme to be suspended. *Super*, the mass-circulation newspaper, ran the news of his reincarnation on its front page and criticised the television company that made the film for "greasing the red Goebbels' socialist palm" with DM3,500 (£1,200) to sit in front of the camera again. After the broadcast the station's switchboard was jammed by viewers phoning to complain.

But the programme at least gave East Germans a topic of debate. "I thought I was seeing a ghost," said one viewer with a shudder. Another admitted being amused by the broadcast, "now that he is a harmless relic of the bad old days".

Herr von Schnitzler was one of East Germany's privileged élite, allowed to travel freely to the West while proclaiming from his studio chair that the desire of his countrymen to travel was mere "lust for adventure which could be more properly satisfied in the building of our socialist fatherland".

In the programme he defended the border troops he was once wont to describe as "my godchildren" and in whose company he and his wife spent every Christmas. Excerpts from his 1,519 commentaries showed him praising Ulbricht — "he is the leader of our council of state: we love him" — and the fortified border — "for the first time in our history Germany's imperialists have been brought to a halt".

He blamed the collapse of East Germany on the regime's failure to fight Western influence and said that the class struggle would continue regardless.

Albanian president resigns

Warsaw: President Alia of Albania, the great survivor of communism in Eastern Europe, bowed to the inevitable yesterday and resigned (Roger Boyes writes).

The move came a day before the convening of the new parliament. Free elections last month swept aside the former Communist party, giving the Democratic party a two-thirds majority.

Dead honoured

Moscow: The Russian Orthodox Church's synodical commission is to investigate the death of the last tsar and his family — a preliminary step to canonisation. It also designated February 7 a day of mourning for victims of the bolshevik revolution.

Turkey pressed

Brussels: The Portuguese presidency of the European Community will ask Turkey for an explanation of its actions against the country's minority Kurds, a diplomat said. Germany had wanted a stronger statement condemning repression. *(AFP)*

Editor named

Prague: Jaroslav Koran, aged 50, the journalist who served as mayor of Prague immediately after the fall of the communist regime, has been appointed editor of the Czechoslovak edition of *Playboy magazine*, the CSTK news agency reported. *(AFP)*

Clifford Longley

Uncovering the secrets of the KGB prelates

For two decades the joke in international church circles was that every third archimandrite in a visiting Russian Orthodox delegation was from the KGB. The sport was to guess which one was there to watch the other two — although it hardly seemed to matter. It was obvious to everybody that the Soviet authorities had a vested interest in allowing some leeway for church representatives to travel abroad.

Although the World Council of Churches was a favourite Orthodox (or KGB) destination (or target), there is no hard evidence that they got any return for their modest efforts, or did any damage. The WCC often adopted policies the conservative churches of the West thought irritatingly left-wing — humanitarian support for African liberation movements, financial aid to black or anti-racist movements in the West — but it needed no Russian encouragement to do so.

The other favourite Soviet religious cause was peace, or rather "peace". Again, the presence of Russian Orthodox delegates at international church peace conferences, even a third of them were on the KGB's books, did nothing to alter the conferences' platitudinous, left-of-centre outcomes. Churchmen are supposed to favour peace, so favouring peace and coming from the Soviet Union was an unremarkable combination. And if such conferences never attacked the Soviet Union for not being peaceloving, then neither did the General Synod of the Church of England.

The verdict on the Russian Orthodox Church's participation in international church affairs during the Soviet period, therefore, need not be a harsh one, even if its role was marked by a certain degree of bad faith. Reflex indignation at its compromises with communism is easy from the depths of a Western armchair, forgetful of motes and beams. But rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's implies such compromise, which is often impossible without dirtying the hands.

The approach adopted by Russian churchmen in their overseas dealings may throw some light on the history of their relations with the Soviet authorities at home, which is currently causing much heart-searching and recrimination in Orthodox circles. At the WCC headquarters at Geneva and elsewhere, the Russians seemed interested only in staying out of trouble, not drawing too much attention to themselves, being useful when they could do so uncontroversially, and being friendly but never too open or trustful.

These are classic survival tactics. Such insincerity as circumstances dictated they should adopt towards their Western hosts was probably cancelled out by the insincerity of their relationship with their Soviet masters. The one adjective which came to mind in dealing with senior Russian Orthodox personnel was "wily". But is there not a Gospel text telling the apostles that survival in a hostile world required them to be as cunning as serpents?

Now Holy Russia is back in fashion. The state authorities have started to bestow favours on the Orthodox church as never before, in an attempt to fill the spiritual hiatus caused by the end of communism. But the opening of the KGB's books and the revelation that some churchmen were secret policemen has so angered the church's young turks that there have been calls for senior resignations.

There is not much evidence of a deliberate Catholic policy to take advantage of Orthodox embarrassment over Soviet collaboration, though the Orthodox leadership, Russian and Ukrainian, is intensely suspicious of "papal aggression". The Catholics mainly belong to a Byzantine-rite "Uniate" church which has never been accepted by the Orthodox. Its claims for the return of church property (confiscated by the state and sometimes taken over by the Orthodox after 1946) have recently led to confrontations in the street in several towns.

The choice — to bend or to defy and suffer — faces all churches under state pressure, from Jesus's dealings with Pilate and the early church's dealings with the Roman Empire onwards. When persecuted, churches tend to split: some are acquiescent, some defiant. Once the pressure relaxes, however, the antipathy between those whose paths have diverged often intensifies. There is anger among those who emerge from the shadows, guilt among those who cooperated. But there is no sin in survival, only in betrayal. It has not been proved so far that the Russian Orthodox Church betrayed either its beliefs, its members or its friends. And the Uniate Catholics were never among the latter.

After all the campaigning the most likely election result is a hung parliament, says Peter Riddell

Swinging to the centre

RIDDELL ON THE ELECTION

The polls are determined to make fools of any overconfident commentator. The campaign may not have been inspiring, but even at this late stage no one can be certain who will be in Downing Street in a week's time.

Where do the parties stand now? The polls have shown big variations in party ratings, though mostly within the margin of error. But there has been a change in trend. The Jennifer Bennett health row has helped to boost the Liberal Democrats, more at the expense of the Tories than Labour. According to an average of recent polls, Tory support has dropped this week from just over 39 per cent to slightly below 37 per cent, and Labour has slipped from 41 to 40 per cent, while the Liberal Democrats have risen from 16 to nearly 19 per cent. This points to a hung parliament with Labour as the largest party.

What difference have the parties' campaigns made? Many voters finally make up their minds during the four weeks before polling, though not necessarily because of the campaigns. Labour has fought a smooth, disciplined campaign, focusing on a programme to lead Britain out of recession and to improve public services. The party's lead in the polls has generated a "Teflon" mood of self-confidence, in which small mistakes and questions about policy inconsistencies can be wiped away. By contrast, the Tory campaign has been lacklustre and without coherence; attempts to defend the party's record and to justify a fourth term have been overshadowed by attacks on Labour. Positive and negative messages have been blurred. The Liberal Democrats have avoided the pitfalls of the old Alliance.

Among the leaders, John Major has been overshadowed by colleagues and often seemed defensive, despite his soapbox; Neil Kinnock has projected the image of a leader ready for office, while Paddy Ashdown's energy has helped make his party a serious political player again.

What might happen over the next few days to affect the result? The campaign has so far been free of smears, scandals or gaffes, in spite of rumours that a shock story is about to break which will change everything. The main risks to the parties are: that Mr Major will sound too strident; that Mr Kinnock will appear too triumphalist (as he did to television viewers of the mammoth rally in Sheffield on Wednesday); and that too much of the Liberal Democrat campaign rests on Mr Ashdown.

Otherwise, the election will be decided by whether Labour can sustain its "time for a change" message, or whether the Tories' counterattack on taxes, inflation and interest rates finally strikes home. The Tories will seek to contrast Mr Major's strengths with voters' doubts about Mr Kinnock. The Liberal Democrats will stress their moderating influence on the other parties.

Will the polls affect the result? Wednesday's polls showing a big Labour lead produced a sharp drop in financial markets. The Tories hope that the prospect of a Kinnock government will frighten wavering voters back to the fold, especially those who have recently switched to the Liberal Democrats — hence the current arguments that Mr Ashdown is acting as a Trojan horse for Mr Kinnock.

Many of the final exchanges will therefore be shaped by the parties' standings in the batch of polls in tomorrow's papers.

So who is going to win? Unless there is a sudden shift of opinion, the odds are on a hung parliament. Labour is set to be the largest single party; it will require a reversal of its recent slippage to gain an overall majority. A small shift could make the Tories the largest party, but a swing unprecedentedly large for the last few days of a campaign would be required for the Tories to gain a clear overall majority.

What would happen in a hung parliament? The Tories would be seen as the losers. Not only would at least 50 or 60 MPs have lost their seats, but the party would have fewer options than Labour. The only group that might offer even tacit support is the official Unionists, so the Tories need to be within 10 seats of the 326 needed for an overall majority to have any hope of staying in office.

Clearly the winner after gaining more than 70 seats, Labour might hold office with only 300 to 305 MPs. Labour's conciliatory gesture over electoral reform has been rejected by Mr Ashdown in view of Mr Kinnock's refusal to state his own views and to promise legislation. But the Liberal Democrats may find it hard to vote against a compromise Queen's Speech, since the party's large contingent of Scottish MPs, already under pressure from the nationalists, may not be willing to oppose a Scottish parliament.

Labour may have most of the cards in a hung parliament. Mr Kinnock believes that all that matters is getting a foot in Downing Street. At present, therefore, while the Tories may still hold onto office, the advantage lies with Labour.

The triumph of the footnote

Ben Macintyre celebrates the minutiae of social history while reading a study of fish and chips

Humble fish and chip suppers have suddenly been accorded a central role in our national history. *Fish and Chips and The British Working Class, 1870-1940* by Dr John Walton of Lancaster University, may not electrify as a title, but it does for the working man's dinner what has already been done for the pencil, the cigar, the weather, the round bracket and much more besides: Dr Walton has taken what might otherwise be a historical footnote, and squeezed a portion of social history out of it.

The impact of fish and chips, he says with a determinedly straight face, has been unjustly neglected. Through much of the later part of the last century and the first part of this one, Britons apparently derived much of their protein and fat from fish and chips; the food was so popular during the first world war that the government issued fish-fryers with extra cooking fat to keep the home fires, and presumably hearts, burning.

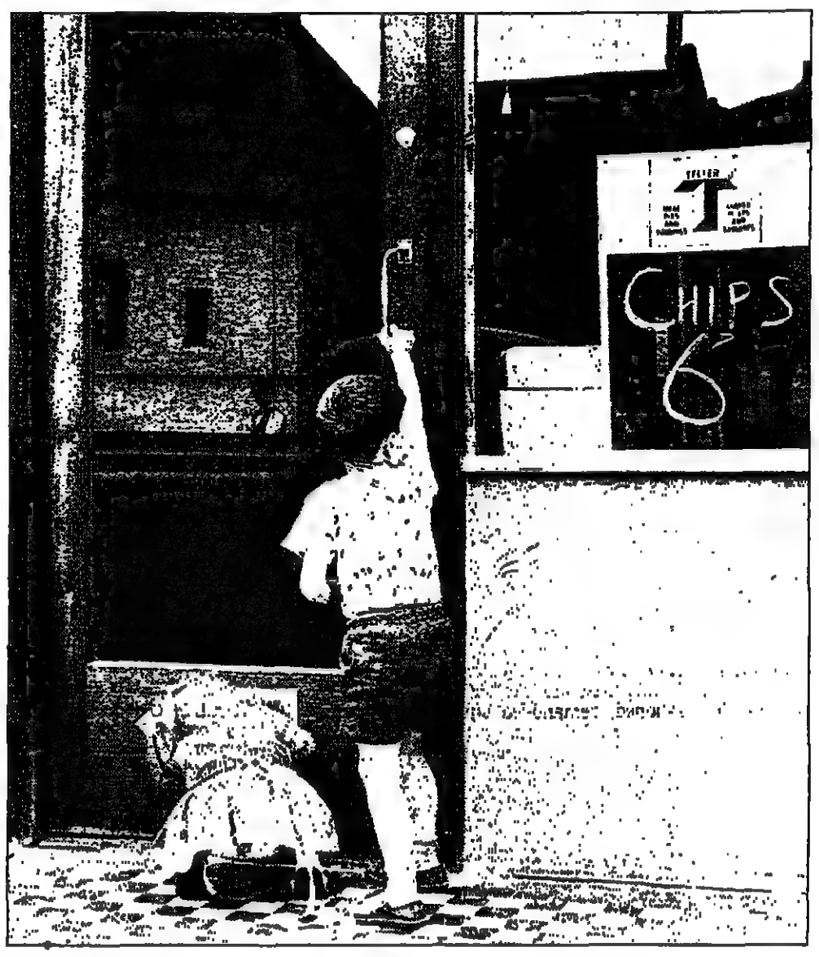
The fact that in 1914 Bradford had its own fish and chip inspector may be a matter of the most profound indifference to you, but to Dr Walton it is an explanatory key to working-class life. "I have looked in particular at the relationship between fish-fryers and government," he says. That there was, indeed, such a relationship is one of the most surprising aspects of this book.

It makes dyspeptic reading, but it follows a long and honourable tradition of mole's-eye history. In 1929, the French historians Marc Bloch and Lucien Febvre brought out the first issue of *Annales d'Histoire Economique et Sociale*, probably the most influential history journal of the century. Bloch and the *Annales* school argued that history must be bolstered by other disciplines — ethnology, sociology, linguistics, geography, medicine — and that present concerns can and should be used to illuminate history. "We know more about the past", Bloch said, "than the past has seen fit to tell us." The *Annalistes* effected a quantum shift in historiography, away from *l'histoire évènementiel* towards *la longue durée*: history, in a sense, from the bottom up.

The route from the *Annalistes* to the history of fish and chips has more slip-roads than carriageway, but it has also led to some remarkable scholarship. In Britain, Richard Cobb's brilliantly detailed and absorbing reconstructions of French life and culture through the stories of ordinary people are among the best modern examples of such deep-mine history. R.N. Salaman's *History and Social Influence of the Potato* is a monument of tuberous research and remains an essential text for the study of Irish history.

By teasing out the nature of everyday lives, history gains often unexpected depths and insights. The discovery, for example, that some half of the recruits to the British army in the Boer war suffered from rickets helped to draw the right into a consensus in favour of social reform and improving the general health of the British working man. Similarly, the excavation of a single burial ground at Sutton Hoo, containing Swedish coins and Byzantine ware, has helped to show that the Dark Ages were, for East Anglian kings at least, thoroughly cosmopolitan.

At its best, grass-roots history illuminates time and place in a way that the parade of great events and the doings of great men and women seldom can; but at their worst such studies are the monomaniacal wanderings of the obsessed collector, often owing more to gimmickry than scholarship. It is, it seems, too easy to pick an area of human behaviour, a pastime or utensil, to invent an alliterative title (say, "Corns, Carbuncles and Cuticles: A History of Chiropody"), and follow the subject through in massive, but not necessarily illuminating detail.



Take with a pinch of salt: today's academic paper may be tomorrow's fish and chip wrapper

Too rarely does extrapolation from the particular (or parochial) to the general produce the kind of headline-grabbing conclusions — of the "Roman Empire collapsed from lead in water pipes" variety — that the authors may hope for, and there is often a compensating tendency to inflate findings at ground level into elevated theory, to explain, for example, the invasion of the Eastern hordes as a function of the invention of the stirrup.

A.J.P. Taylor famously argued in his *English History 1914-1945* that frustration within the working class was partially the result of a lack of condoms. "Birth control", he wrote, "became more erratic with each step down the social scale": the working classes relied largely on *coitus interruptus* or abstinence, while the middle classes had access to more sophisticated and, Taylor argued, more satisfying methods of birth control. "The restraint exercised [by the lower classes] in their private lives may well have contributed to their lack of enterprise elsewhere." As a theory it is the more delicious for being unprovable.

Similarly, the latest claim of nutritional historians suggests that the Chartist movement in Lancashire may have lost its impetus due to an excess of oatmeal in the daily diet, for oatmeal contains vitamin B, which has a calming effect on the temperament.

But in one respect, fish and chip history represents the triumph of the footnote, where the minutiae are no longer in small print, but the text itself. Footnotes, said Dr Johnson, "are often necessary, but they are necessary evils". As a confirmed codicilophile, I would argue the reverse: they are unnecessary pleasures. Whose heart does not leap at the sight of a thin trickle of text surmounting a great wodge of notes? Fair enough — practically nobody feels that way; but a good set of footnotes should contain the out-takes of history, in which lurk all the facts too rude, bloody or downright peculiar to warrant inclusion in the narrative. Gibbon wrote: "My English text is chaste, and all licentious passages are left in the obscurity of a learned language" — but he did not resist the temptation to include them.

Take the footnotes to A.J.P Taylor's theory on the sexual frustrations of the proletariat, which furnish the irresistible information that the principal British manufacturer of condoms had produced some 100 million by 1950, but that most contraceptives were imported from Germany, until that form of economic intercourse was interrupted by the second world war.

Whether a footnote warrants, as in the case of fish and chips, 200 pages and £35 worth of analysis is another question. For although incidentally intriguing, Dr Walton's conclusions may be reduced to a single, rather unsurprising fact: British working people like their fish and chips. This stands as a shocking indictment of our unimaginative national cuisine, but as a grand historical conclusion it is, perhaps, small fry.

...and moreover

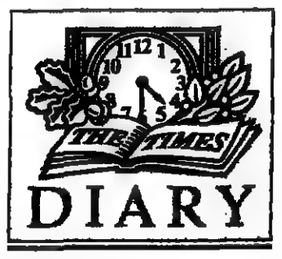
PHILIP HOWARD

In the beginning was the word. But in the end there is just the cliché. This election is a fox in the deep-litter henhouse of dead metaphor, scattering feathers and squawks to blot out the eternal electric light. We cannot expect politicians and journalists in the hurly-burly of an election campaign, speaking and writing at high pressure, to coin brand new metaphors. That takes time, and thought and a touch of poetic lateral thinking, the ability to see and hear things on more than one level at the same time. It is work for poets and punsters, not for politicians, who seem designed to be grey men and women, in plonking earnest. But we should perhaps take more care with our old metaphors and clichés that we are hurling around to blot out the light and deafen the chickens. If you listen carefully to what is being said, you hear things to make your feathers stand on end.

Take the very fashionable metaphor about getting the economy moving out of recession again, "kick-start", which is widely used by politicians of all persuasions and economists of all levels, from teenage scribblers to old Vesuvii. Strict ideological monetarism is to economics as Scientology is to science. But this cliché-metaphor is absurd when you stop to think about it. What has the British economy to do with riding a motorbike, especially since motorcycles these days have Japanese names like Kamikaze rather than English names like Norton.

For those who are not motorcyclists, the definitive description of a kickstart was given in *The Motor Cyclists' ABC* of 1916: "A kick starter is fitted to a machine for the purpose of allowing the engine to be started whilst the rider is in the saddle by a downward kick of a pedal." By definition and intention, a kick-start is something sudden and violent that happens in the stamping of a foot. It is therefore a most inappropriate metaphor to apply to a national economy, which takes years, or at the very least months, to turn in any direction, for better or worse. Economists, who drive the most metaphysical and unhurried (and unreliable) of vehicles, are to hot-rod riders as hairy caterpillars are to cheetahs. To try to kick-start an economy is as sensible as throwing squibs to shift Everest. The metaphor has the snap of a sudden effective action dear to politicians seeking election. But it is not the way that political economies work. They are already moving, not stationary like the motorbike. It is a peculiarly unsuitable metaphor, which nobody who stopped to listen to what he was saying could use. Its popularity shows it is fox in hen-house time.

Much of language is metaphor, which has become set into cliché over the years, so that is passes through the mind without causing a ripple. Consider the word arm, meaning the limb that fastens your hand to your shoulder, and also in the plural, instruments of offence in war, arms as weapons. Both meanings come from a vanished Indo-European root *ar-* meaning to put together, join, or fit, with cognates all over the shop from Hittite to Sanskrit. The metaphor of the weapons is derived from the arm that is fastened onto your shoulder, because when men started fighting each other, they originally did it with things held in their hands and wielded by their arms, such as swords and spears and clubs and battle-axes. *Pugnare*, Latin for to fight, comes in a similar metaphor from *pugnus* a fist. Art, article, and many other words are descended from this old *ar-* root. Arms as weapons were an anthropomorphic metaphor. When guns came in, the metaphor was still half-alive, so that it sounded rum, and so they were given an explanatory prefix as firearms: weapons usually held in the hands that work at a distance with fire and a loud bang. The metaphor has faded further now, so that we can refer without a flicker of awkwardness to intercontinental missiles as arms, although even Hercules would not be able to pick one up in his arms, and arms control, without the least image of keeping order in a class of excited young waving their arms in the air. By similar, daft anthropomorphic metaphor, we refer to stages of even large yacht races as legs. If we thought exactly about our metaphors, the election would be a much quieter affair.



Shady business

WHOEVER wins the boat race this afternoon, Cambridge and Oxford dons are at war over the origin of their respective colours. Cambridge academics say that Oxford stole their dark blue from Trinity, Cambridge. Oxford has hit back, with the support of Richard Brunell, the boat race's official historian, claiming that the dark blue comes from Christ Church, Oxford.

The row still simmers almost 160 years after Oxford first wore dark blue striped shirts at the first race in 1829. The duty porter at Christ Church was adamant yesterday: "Oxford blue comes from the university coat of arms." But Brunell, a former Oxford blue, insists that it is Christ Church blue. He angrily dismisses the claims that Oxford borrowed its dark blue from Trinity, Cambridge.

"Oh yes, they most certainly did," retorts Denis Lawrence, the President of First and Third Trinity Boat Club, three generations of whose family have been Trinity men. "Originally Oxford asked annual permission to race in our colours. Then we made it permanent. But scores were evened when Wadham College at Oxford went and stole Cambridge blue as their colour."

Be all that as it may, Trinity have always been boat race troublemakers. In the first race in 1829 they refused to wear the pink shirts favoured by their fellow crew-members — and rivals — from St Johns. A compromise was reached with a pink ribbon. At the second race in 1836, it was agreed to wear a neutral white — until at the last moment a Christ's man decided that a touch of colour was required to rival Oxford. He ran to the nearest haberdasher, it is said, and returned with light blue ribbon. Denis Lawrence of Trinity says it was a deliberate imitation of Eton blue. Trevor Gardener, a former university treasurer, who now runs the Friends of the Boat Race, has an alternative theory. The light blue that has become universally known as Cambridge's colour was all the haberdasher had in stock at the time.

Peace platform

IN CASE OF a hung parliament, the United Nations is standing by to step in and help negotiate the peace. Next Friday evening, less than 24 hours after the polls have closed, Neil Kinnock and Paddy Ashdown are due to share a platform at an environmental rally in London organised by the United Nations Association. Both have promised that whatever other talks they may be involved in by then, they intend to be present.

"Mr Kinnock gave us his word, even after the election had been announced, that he would be there," says Philip Ruhemann for the organisers. "He has told us he will speak for about half an hour. Mr Ashdown has also pledged to be there. Perhaps they will negotiate on our platform. The UN does have something of a record in these things after all." However, Kinnock may have to call for reinforcements. Also on the platform will be Des Wilson, the Lib Dems campaign manager.

● *Kiri te Kanawa may soon be ousted as the best-selling soprano. Florence Foster Jenkins, famous as "the worst opera singer in history", has been re-released on CD, enabling perfect reproduction of her appalling voice. "Florence was a cult figure," explains Michael Deacon of the record company RCA. "Two thousand people were turned away when she sang at Carnegie Hall in 1944. She never, ever hit the right note, and her rhythm was terrible. She never disappointed her followers, and she is in great demand. Her dreadful singing is a wonderful after-dinner talking point. Was she laughing at the people who had paid to hear the worst singer in the world, or were they paying in order to enjoy the pleasure of laughing at her?"*

God bless laryngitis

ARE their voices going to hold out? All three party leaders are showing signs of croakiness, and yesterday the doctors were full of good advice. Not that Neil Kinnock, for one, takes much notice. David Garfield Davies, chairman of the British Association of Performing Arts Medicine, who works at the post-trauma voice clinic at Middlesex hospital, was consulted by the Labour leader after his voice cracked at the end of the 1983 election. "I saw him eight years ago at the clinic, but he doesn't seem to have taken in my advice. He still gets too excited."

Of the three leaders, only Paddy Ashdown currently has a professional voice coach, and according to the experts, it shows. Kinnock is rated the worst. "He is a shouter. What he does to his voice is like putting paraffin into the engine of a sports car," says Victor Maddern, the actor and voice coach. The advice is to avoid clearing the throat and gargling. "When the voice is tiring, it is much better to yawn or sigh for relief," says Davies. Downing Street seemed unconcerned about the prime minister's voice. "We are too busy fighting an election to worry about that," said a spokesman.

Drudgery divine

PETER BALL, the new Bishop of Gloucester, was planning to rise at 5 am as usual this morning to do a spot of vacuuming around the palace before his enthronement in the presence of Prince Charles. He says the chore is part of his daily religious ritual, and today will be no different. "I am a simple shepherd rather than a glorious prelate," he says, and he will emphasise the point by turning up not in

a bishop's finery but in a humble monk's habit. The purple cassock and mitre will be adopted only at the very last moment of the ceremony. Only then will he be distinguishable from the Bishop of Truro, his identical twin brother Michael, who will also be dressed in a grey monk's habit.

QUESTION OF IDEOLOGY

Next week's general election is widely regarded as devoid of ideological choice. The Tories, having unceremoniously dropped the author of Thatcherism in 1990, smartly moved towards the centre. The Labour party, smarting from wounds inflicted on it in three defeats, has performed a similar shift. Reading the election manifestos is to plough through sludge of more than usual density. Not surprisingly, the Liberal Democrats are emerging as minor heroes of the campaign, the party of "We told you all so."

All parties tend to behave thus at elections: they certainly did before Mrs Thatcher's ideological douche in 1979. In addition, John Major and Neil Kinnock have had electoral reasons for policy convergence at a time of recession. They have shed themselves of policies, for instance on poll tax or defence, which had been talismen of party ideology but which psephologists told them were liabilities. They have shed themselves of the extremist label, often sadly associated with ideology in politics. Hence the contrast with the fierce elections of the 1980s.

For the Conservatives, this contrast has been the more noticeable because they are in government and have changed leader. Mrs Thatcher brought them to office in 1979 on the basis of a grand idea: that a modern democracy was by no means ungovernable. It could reform its productive capacity, manage its money and sustain its growth, but it could do so only if it ended the idea that the public sector was a free lunch and ensured that internal and external trade were determined in the market place.

By the end of the 1980s, Mrs Thatcher had lost her battle to retain Britain's independence of monetary manoeuvre. She had defied the unions and instituted important public sector reforms, but the great welfare state institutions remained mostly intact and she had lost her own office. But in the process she had laid down clarity of vision as essential to the practice of Conservatism. She knew where she was going, however hard the road. Even among her opponents, she instilled an awkward sense that there was truth in her message and necessity in her medicine.

What now of Mrs Thatcher's inheritors? Much is now made of the distance that John Major and his colleagues have put between themselves and Thatcherism. They drained their tank of her petrol a year ago, yet they are still dithering on whether to refill with leaded or unleaded. Mr Major has found it strangely hard to choose between Burke and Hayek. Grand strategy does not come easy to him. His God is in the details. His followers are unsure where he stands on further privatising health and education, on making public utilities truly competitive, on revitalising Britain's moribund constitution.

A reason for this is that Mr Major has been led along his political learning curve not by the hair-shirt prophets of Conservatism in opposition but by the centralist mandarins of the Treasury and Downing Street. After the experience of Nigel Lawson, Whitehall's instinctive aversion to the private sector has guided Mr Major ever deeper into the slough of recession, evincing from him the phrase (applied only to the private sector) that must haunt him, "If it isn't hurting, it isn't working." Asked about philosophy, Mr Major answers in the newspeak of a Treasury briefing paper. Majorism, like socialism, has come to be about jam tomorrow.

Yet for all this, the sensible observer distinguishes the surface noise of party politics, the mumbling and scratching as an election approaches, from the continuing themes. That Mr Major has for the past year struggled just to "keep things ticking over" does not render him impervious to grand design should his freedom of manoeuvre be restored by a new mandate. The Tory party remains committed to the reforms instituted by Mrs Thatcher and to the ideology underlying them. Should it win this election, there is no doubt that privatisation will be resumed. So too would the striving for lower taxes on incomes and savings, for lower trade barriers and against anti-competitive subsidies. Such Toryism remains rooted in Mrs Thatcher's antipathy to the establishment and her opposition to interest group protectionism. It has no link with that of the 1970s, of the Heath government's search for national consensus on the fixing of wages and prices. It remains distinctive.

Labour comes nowhere near such an outlook. The party may have recovered from the shock treatment of Thatcherism and the equal and opposite shock of the collapse of socialism in Eastern Europe. The Labour philosopher, Stephen Lukes, wails that "the socialism we have lost is not only a theory of institutional design for an entire socio-economic system, but the very idea of such a theory". But just as Labour leaders were keen to downplay the significance of such Marxist roots, so they might now downplay the significance of their abrupt decay. Labour too has an election to fight. Labour too has to put on its best suit of clothes.

The Labour leadership remains, in its ideological essentials, what it has been since it won four elections in the decade 1964-74. It is the party of organised labour and of collective action: of the aspirations of a planned public sector and its multifarious beneficiaries. One of Mr Kinnock's achievements at this election has been dramatically to expand the range of such beneficiaries, from blue and white collar workers into the realm of the great professions, to doctors, clergymen, academics, teachers, scientists, artists.

Mr Kinnock has acknowledged such elements of "gas and water" Thatcherism as might have appealed to the Webbs, for instance local authority tendering. He has quietly welcomed some wing-clipping of union power. But there has been no clarion restatement of Labour ideology since the writings of Tony Crosland. The immaculately packaged Mr Kinnock has not permitted himself the merest hint that markets might more efficiently advance the prosperity of rich and poor alike. If asked for an ideology, he says he wants to "empower the poor", to grant positional goods to all now deprived of them.

Here is no ideological guide to government but merely a declaration of interest. If asked to allocate the gains of growth between public or private sector, Mr Kinnock offers no contest. In him is vested the requirements of those whose incomes depend on the state. Paying these incomes and maintaining unrationed, demand-led public services (pensions, hospitals) means levying taxes on individuals and companies who must compete with nations that maintain no such services. On this fiscal conjuring trick, Labour is silent. Small wonder that the new Labour party wants to rush to the protectionist bosom of high-cost European social policies.

Labour's ideology appears today as profoundly, to some reassuringly, conservative. It is that of a Whig restoration. The beneficiaries of Labour rule would be the once-great grandees of the public spending booms of the 1960s and 70s: the big cities, Scotland, the public sector unions, the incorporated professions, the civil service. The radical teeth that Labour bared in the 20 years after the war have mostly been drawn (only those for constitutional reform still having some bite). Mr Kinnock's Labour party would be a return to the comfortable habits, and the rivalries and jealousies, of the pre-Thatcher years.

Thus does this election pit Tory radicalism against Labour conservatism. Paradox has always offered the best prism of politics. But to suggest that there is no choice is surely nonsense.

CROWNING MERCY

What passions should the sight of a Cavalier's sword or a Roundhead's helmet stir in the English soul? Three hundred and fifty years after king and parliament joined battle at Edgehill, *The Times* is supporting a travelling exhibition of armaments from the English Civil War which will tour the country until the end of May. Yet, more than three centuries after Charles I was beheaded outside the banqueting hall of Whitehall, historians are still trading common room blows over what the war was all about.

There are plenty of theories on offer in the historical shopping-mall. Older historians traced in the conflict the inevitable rise of the House of Commons and the first stirrings of liberal democracy, while Marxists choose to interpret it as England's very own bourgeois revolution. In the last 20 years, a school of revisionists, led by Earl Russell, has successfully stripped the war of its political glamour. For them, the battles of 1642-51 had less to do with principle than with factional crises: an unwelcome influx of Scots to court on James I's accession in 1603, and by the unpopular ascendancies of the Duke of Buckingham, Archbishop Laud and the Earl of Strafford in Charles's reign.

Most members of Parliament, the revisionists say, were a dreary lot, more committed to the freedom from arrest which their status conferred than to the fight against Stuart absolutism or arbitrary taxation. So many MPs had their noses in the Stuart trough that the king/parliament division was mostly artificial. Thus England stumbled haplessly into war simply because Charles's reckless foreign policy had overstretched the nation's resources, because the king failed to keep Ireland or Scotland on a tight leash, and because the exotic company he kept at court provoked an irrational fear of papism. Scarcely the stuff of national legend.

This uninspiring orthodoxy, now current in most sixth form and university courses, neglects the grand idea in history. The MPs who objected to Stuart taxes and the men who led Cromwell's New Model Army to victory at Naseby in 1645 may not have been political scientists but they left an indelible mark upon British political culture and its unwritten constitution.

The stakes were certainly seen as high by the participants. That the Stuart kings were attracted by continental despotism is clear enough from James I's own *Basilikon Doron* and the absolutist tracts of supporters such as Lord Chancellor Ellesmere. This fatal fascination provoked in its turn a riot of pamphlets and letter-writing exploring the role of kingship, sovereignty and liberty, the pinnacle of which was the Petition of Right of 1628, condemning the evils of arbitrary government. Alongside the bloody clash of steel raged a far more productive war of words, "a search for a doctrine of responsible government" as John Morrill puts it in today's *Times* Saturday Review.

From this paper battlefield emerged in the late-17th century a nation committed to the sovereignty of Parliament, opposed to arbitrary taxation, standing armies and martial law, and edging towards religious tolerance. The Cromwellian republic failed. But later kings who pushed their luck, such as James II and George III, faced far tougher ground rules. Small wonder that the people of England seemed less moved even by the clamour of the French Revolution than they were by the rise of Napoleon.

With becoming English discretion, this anniversary will probably generate many works of scholarship and few fireworks. But the enduring influence of the English Civil War cannot be in doubt, especially in an election week which tacitly celebrates the values to which the conflict played midwife. If nothing else, today's party leaders may be grateful that things are not as heated as they were in 1649. In those days, after all, the penalty for neglecting Scotland — or for pushing up taxation — was nastier.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Giving health service reforms a fair chance to work

From Lord McColl of Dulwich and 645 others whose signatures have been submitted to The Times

Sir, We are all doctors, nurses or health-care professionals. We wish to make the following points:

1. The NHS reforms should be given a fair chance to work as they are already providing improvement in the quality of patient care and are also, through greater efficiency, enabling more patients to be treated with less delay.
2. By allowing money to follow the patient, hospitals will be able to treat more patients without exceeding their budgets.
3. The reforms have affirmed the principles on which the NHS was founded, that its services are available to everyone regardless of means and will continue to be funded out of general taxation.
4. It is desirable to devolve decision-making within the health service down to local centres. This is an important principle of the reforms, especially the trusts, which remain an integral part of the NHS.
5. The success of GP fundholding has already been confirmed. The initiative should be extended now to give all GPs the opportunity to obtain better hospital services for their patients.

Yours sincerely,
McCOLL,
House of Lords.
April 2.

From Dr M. J. Rooney

Sir, Like many of my fellow health professionals, this election campaign has intensified the frustration I feel with our politicians.

A non-party-political debate is needed to discuss what level of health care the nation wants to provide and how and by whom it is to be provided and funded. The present debate on health serves only to further political careers. Truth and objectivity were the earliest casualties of this undignified battle.

Few of us welcomed the new GP contract, the recent NHS reforms, or the way they were implemented. However, we have worked hard to carry them out and in the process spent much from the public purse.

We now need a period of stability and evaluation leading to a national evolution of the NHS, not another abrupt round of politically inspired changes.

Yours etc.,
MICHAEL ROONEY,
Oaktree Cottage, 3a Flowery Field,
Woodsmoor, Stockport,
Greater Manchester.
March 29.

From Professor Roger Jones

Sir, In "Peril at the gates of paradise" (Life & Times, March 23) David Selbourne pointed out the distinction between reality and the political game and described how the general election campaign trivialises and distracts attention from matters of public concern.

The health debate is now focused on waiting times for surgery and the impact of the internal market. These matters are important and raise issues of funding, competence and organisation. But in a sense they are distractions from much wider concerns about the health of our population, which is influenced by environmental, social and political factors.

We have little to be proud of: mortality rates for coronary heart disease and lung cancer are unacceptably high and overall mortality rates are highest in the most deprived areas of the country. Causal links between disease and premature death and poverty, social deprivation and unhealthy lifestyles are inescapable.

In this context waiting list initiatives are at best cosmetic; it is no more appropriate to seek to improve the health of the nation by building more hospitals than it is to improve standards of living by building more banks. Our understanding of the causes of common disabling and fatal diseases is imperfect, but we know enough to know that not enough is being done to prevent them.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER JONES,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
Department of Primary Health Care,
School of Health Care Sciences,
Framlington Place,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
April 2.

From Professor Sir Dilwyn Williams

Sir, Many of us who work in the NHS regret the way in which it has been politicised in this election campaign. The foreword to the government's white paper, *Working for Patients*, of three years ago, defined three aims: "to extend patient choice, to delegate responsibility to where the services are provided, and to secure the best value for money".

It is clear that attempts to meet the latter two aims have led to patient choice being restricted rather than extended. Whether the delegated responsibility is being exercised wisely is unproven. It is impossible to say whether the best value for money is being secured. Despite the huge sums spent on management and accounting rather than on direct patient care, costings remain at present largely a matter of guesswork.

A realistic assessment of the outcome of the NHS reforms must be that in the short term they have led to muddle, waste, bureaucracy but some benefits. The long-term effect is unpredictable. In my view the biggest danger is the fear that the emphasis on the market and the application of business principles may turn the caring professions into businessmen and women who judge success and failure by the balance sheet alone.

A health service where decisions about the use of money to provide resources are taken by the doctor when he or she is consulted by the patient may lead to economy at the expense of standards of care.

A health service where the transformation of money into resources is decided centrally may encourage caring attitudes, but may discourage the economic use of resources.

A middle way is possible, but rebuilding the consensus that is essential for a stable and successful NHS must involve the public, the professions and politicians of all parties, not just the rushed implementation of political theory.

Yours faithfully,
DILLWYN WILLIAMS,
Orchard House,
Boverton, South Glamorgan.

From Mr Ray Whitney

Sir, Those attending the carefully timed special conference of the British Medical Association (report, March 27) to vote against the government's National Health Service reforms were following the tradition of that organisation. The BMA has regularly opposed welcome and much needed reforms to our health-care system at their introduction, only to embrace them warmly a few years later once their benefits (to the medical profession) have become clear.

This pattern was seen in 1911 when Lloyd George's National Health Insurance Bill proposed a "medical benefit" which provided for a minimum level of medical care for the poorest in the community.

It was repeated when Aneurin Bevan introduced his National Health Service Bill in 1946. The BMA only accepted the much criticised "surrender" to Bevan when, in his words, he "stuffed the doctors' mouths with pound notes".

Readers tempted to point out that the Conservative party voted against the second reading of Bevan's Bill should recall that the party's health spokesman emphasised at the time that the Conservatives advocated a "national, comprehensive, 100 per cent health service" on the lines set out in the 1944 white paper of Henry Willink (also a Conservative). Needless to say the BMA had also opposed the white paper.

The government's NHS reforms are increasingly recognised as successful both by the public and by a growing percentage of the medical profession. On past form, it will take another year or two before the BMA again catches up with history and recognises the improvements now being realised in health care.

Sincerely,
RAY WHITNEY (Conservative candidate for Wycombe),
150a West Wycombe Road,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

From Mr David Gullick

Sir, In the 18 years of my service on the staff of the BMA, the aggregate periods of office of Conservative and Labour administrations were roughly equal. During those years I knew of, or took part in, several discussions between ministry and professional spokesmen about the intolerable lengths of hospital waiting lists.

But despite these best efforts, the problem remained unsolved; and strange as it may seem, the gross total of patients-in-waiting was much the same as the figure of 925,663 you publish (report, March 26) — year in and year out.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GULLICK
(BMA Secretariat 1958-76),
1 Heathbrow Road,
Welwyn, Hertfordshire.
March 26.

Too much faith in opinion polls

From Mr John Cunningham

Sir, As the chief executive of a company which spends many hundreds of thousands of pounds on market research and its analysis, I am concerned about the misinterpretation of market research techniques in the current general election campaign and the preoccupation with what are for the most part statistically insignificant differences.

Polling is an entirely valid market research technique which has a remarkably high degree of statistical accuracy for most applications, but in this election far too much is being expected of it.

On samples of 1,000-1,500, the margin of error on responses of about 40 per cent is plus or minus 2.5-3 per cent — i.e., any figures which are less than 5-6 percentage points apart are within the margin of error and cannot be said to be significantly different.

There is still a 1-in-20 chance that the real figures could lie outside the range of plus or minus 3 per cent. To be virtually (i.e., 99 per cent) certain, one must accept a wider margin of plus or minus 3.8-4.7 per cent: that would eliminate virtually any statistical significance in the difference between Conservative and Labour support so far in the campaign.

It can therefore be positively misleading for political commentators to talk, for example, of one party improving its lead by one or two percentage points. Successive response rates are in effect identical in statistical terms and most of the comment on poll results can only be conjectural.

There are several other reasons for judging the polls with circumspection. A poll may well reasonably reflect overall national opinion, but the distribution of that opinion over 650 differing constituencies can be varied and uneven; the 80-180 constituencies polled may not be representative of opinion elsewhere in the country; and although the polls seek to reflect the views of the whole voting population, the whole population never actually votes (in the ten elections since 1955, between 21 and 28 per cent of the electorate never got to the polling station).

Many potential voters in this election may have disfranchised themselves in order to avoid poll tax. The Registrar General, in the context of the 1991 census, is already on record as saying that the shortfall of those registered, whilst less than 2 per cent, would be larger than the 0.5 per cent (250,000 people) unrecorded in the 1981 census.

The shortfall on the electoral register, which is much less stringently supervised and enforced than the census, could well be 2-3 per cent — up to 1.5 million voters. Whom would they have voted for, assuming that they would have voted at all? And how many of them have already given their opinions in a poll?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CUNNINGHAM
(Chief Executive),
Mintel International Group,
18-19 Long Lane, EC1.
April 2.

Ashdown claims

From Lord Harris of High Cross

Sir, On Europe, Mr Ashdown boasts that the Liberal Democrats alone are united and in favour of a federal destiny. The appearance of unanimity is no doubt easier for a party dominated by a single personality and undistracted by recent experience or early prospect of responsible office.

Yet the ICM/Guardian poll before Maastricht on the direct question of ceding "greater powers to European political institutions" revealed that nearly 70 per cent of Liberal Democrats were opposed, compared with about 80 per cent of Conservatives and 60 per cent of Labour supporters. So not only are Mr Ashdown's followers less united than Conservatives, the still solid majority came down on precisely the opposite side from their federalist leader.

On education, the shallowness of Mr Ashdown's claim to support is even more inordinate. Apparently, schools have now joined hospitals as something on which too much of other people's money can never be spent. Thus he repeats that throwing another £2 billion in the approximate direction of the NUT, etc., will transform the teaching of our children. Few economists who are not paid to keep a straight face would support the proposition that increased spending on anything automatically guarantees a corresponding increase in high quality output, least of all when mismanaged by an over-centralised, monopolistic bureaucracy.

Cause for pause is provided by a simple pair of statistics. The number of teachers in state schools was last seen as just short of 400,000 (in full-time equivalents); while the number of non-teaching staff in central and local offices is — guess what? Why, just short of 400,000! It is to fatten-up this admittedly failing, ramshackle administration that Liberal Democrats boast of itching to burden innocent taxpayers with another penny (for the time being) on the standard rate.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH HARRIS,
House of Lords.
April 1.

Defence strategy

From Sir Patrick Duffy

Sir, Your political and defence correspondents, in their reports today, set Tuesday's Conservative election broadcast in a correct context. Nicholas Wood observes that the broadcast "sought to resurrect defence as an election issue", for the purpose — in the words of Michael Evans — of "raising the old accusation that defence is not safe in Labour's hands".

But Mr Evans also points out that Labour has "come a long way towards bridging the gap" on the key areas of defence strategy. In his reference to the defence budget, he raises only one fundamental question about the Conservative government's own conduct of defence policy.

Anxiety has been repeatedly expressed in the House of Commons in recent months — and not only from the Labour benches — about whether defence strategy has been properly thought out and well presented, about its strategic rationale or how far it is Treasury-driven, about procurement and the future of defence industry, and about its impact on those who matter first and foremost — our armed services.

It was from the Labour benches in the week before the dissolution of Parliament that the prime minister was reminded of the recent barrage of criticism from the Select Committee on Defence over the government's handling of the army cuts, and the genuine fear among members on both sides of the House that the outcome will be overstretch in peacetime and a dangerous shortage in times of tension.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK DUFFY,
153 Bennetthorpe,
Doncaster, South Yorkshire.
April 1.

Women's votes

From Ms Lesley Abdela

Sir, There is a record number of women candidates standing at the election. Even without the independents, including the two Equal Representation In Parliament candidates in Slough and Beaconsfield, I calculate there are 430, with the Liberal Democrats just ahead of Labour by 145 to 135, the Greens with 66 and Conservatives 63.

Nevertheless, it surprises me how little coverage has been given by any party to what the United Kingdom's 28 million women want from the next government. At the 1987 general election, for the first time in history, more women actually voted than men.

This lack of discussion of issues vital to women also lets the male candidates down, as women voters need to know who would attend to the majority gender's specific as well as general needs.

Yours faithfully,
LESLEY ABDELA,
The Lodge, Conock Manor,
Chirton, Wiltshire.
April 1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Labour and hunting

From Mr Nick Herbert

Sir, It has taken Neil Kinnock just two weeks to depart from Labour's manifesto pledge to allow a free vote on hunting (report, April 2). Scenting electoral advantage, he now commits a Labour government to ban the sport. Labour have also promised to leave shooting and fishing unrestricted. Why on earth should over four million shooters and anglers believe them? Quite apart from the breathtaking hypocrisy of the pledge, it may soon be broken.

A survey of the last Parliament showed that half of Labour's MPs were opposed to shooting and a third could not even find it in themselves to support angling, preferring merely to be "neutral" on one of Britain's most popular participatory sports.

Mr Kinnock may regret the day he sought to make political capital out of animal welfare. The only people for whom it will be an election issue are the millions who see a threat to their sport. A far bigger concern for most voters will be whether Mr Kinnock and his party can be trusted to keep their promises.

Yours faithfully,
NICK HERBERT,
Lyndhurst Cottage,
Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex.

Outsize elephant

From Lord Glendevon

Sir, Your science editor reported (March 26) the discovery of an outsize elephant in the Nepal jungles by Colonel Blashford-Snell. This elephant "broke into the camp and snapped the chains of a domestic female elephant" which was rescued just in time.

When my father, Lord Linlithgow, was Viceroy of India he visited Nepal in December 1938. He wrote to the King on the eve of his arrival as follows: "I hear from my camp that four nights ago a wild tusker entered the elephant lines . . . and choosing a likely looking young lady elephant took her away with him. Quite unabashed she returned to duty next day".

Could it have been the same elephant up to his tricks over 50 years later?

Yours faithfully,
GLENDEVON,
House of Lords.
March 27.

Saving graces

From Mr J. Allan Denholm

Sir, I thought it might be of interest to readers to hear of the West of Scotland ecumenical grace (letters, April 2):

O Lord heap blessings on the soup,
Heap blessings on the stovies,
Heap blessings on the Papes and Jews,
The Muslims and Jehovies.
Heap blessings on all gathered here,
On absent friends and strangers,
And if you have any blessings left
For God's sake bless the Rangers.

Yours faithfully,
J. ALLAN DENHOLM,
Greencroft, 19 Colquhoun Drive,
Bearsden, Glasgow.
April 2.

From Mr Peter O'Hare

Sir, There is a certain topicality about the politicians' grace: "For those whom we are about to deceive may we forever be truly thankful".

Yours faithfully,
PETER O'HARE,
9 Cherry Tree Close,
Anstey, Leicester.
April 2.

Weekend Money letters, page 28

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 3: The Duke of Edinburgh today visited the Channel Tunnel and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Kent (the Rt Hon Robin Leigh-Pemberton).

His Royal Highness travelled from the Shakespeare Cliff Tunnel Construction Site to the Coquelles Terminal, Calais.

His Royal Highness, Patron, the St Nazaire Society, later departed for a visit to St Nazaire to attend the ceremony to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of Operation Chariot.

Lieutenant Commander Malcolm Sillars, RN, was in attendance.

The Princess Royal, President, Federation Equestre Internationale, departed from Heathrow Airport, London for a visit to the Gothenburg Scandinavium Horse Show for the World Cup Final Dressage Championships.

Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness returned to Bristol Airport, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Avon (Sir John Wills, Bt) and later as President, British Olympic Association, attended the Severnside British Olympic Appeal Dinner at the Holiday Inn, Bristol.

Mrs William Nunneley was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 3: The Prince of Wales this morning received representatives of the Mayor of St Petersburg.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Mary Rose Trust, received the Lord Caldecote on relinquishing the appointment of Chairman and Mr Lionel Allery on assuming the appointment.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 3: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, today visited Glasgow.

Her Royal Highness was entertained to Luncheon in the City Chambers by the Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Glasgow (Mrs Susan Baird, the Rt Hon The Lord Provost).

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, later visited Strathclyde Police Headquarters to see the Automatic Fingerprint Recognition System.

The Lady Glenconner was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 3: The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron, the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (Cot Death Research and Support), this morning opened the first National Conference at the Frobel Institute College, Roehampton Lane, London SW15.

Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Grinling Gibbons, wood carver, Rotterdam, 1648; Sir William Siemens, inventor, Lenthe, Germany, 1823; Maurice Vlaminck, painter, Paris, 1876.

DEATHS: John Napier, inventor of logarithms, Merchiston Castle, Edinburgh, 1617; Oliver Goldsmith, writer, London, 1774; John Campbell, philanthropist, co-founder of the Religious Tract Society of Scotland, London, 1840; William Henry Harrison, ninth president of the USA, March 4-April 4 1841, Washington, 1841; Carl Benz, pioneer of the motor car, Paris, 1941; André Michelin, industrialist, Paris, 1941; Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan 1971-77, executed, Rawalpindi, 1979; Gloria Swanson, actress, New York, 1983.

The North Atlantic Treaty was signed in Washington by 11 nations, 1949. Martin Luther King, Nobel peace laureate 1964, was assassinated, Memphis, Tennessee, 1968.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: Thomas Hobbes, philosopher, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, 1588; Jean Honoré Fragonard, painter, Grasse, France, 1732; Sir Henry Havelock, general, relieved Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny, Sunderland, 1795; Joseph Lister, Baron Lister, surgeon, founder of antiseptic medicine, Upton, Essex, 1827; Algernon Swinburne, poet, London, 1837; Spencer Tracey, actor, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1900; Herbert von Karajan, conductor, Salzburg, 1908.

DEATHS: William Brouncker, 3rd Viscount Brouncker, mathematician, first president of the Royal Society 1662-77, London, 1684; Edward Young, poet, Welwyn, Hertfordshire, 1765; Georges-Jacques Danton, French revolution leader, executed, Paris, 1794; Robert Raikes, pioneer of Sunday schools, Gloucester, 1811; John Wisden, compiler of cricket records, London, 1884; George Edward Herbert, 5th Earl of Carnarvon, archaeologist, Cairo, 1923; Douglas MacArthur, US army general, Washington, 1964; Chiang Kai-Shek, president of Taiwan 1950-75, Taiwan, 1975; Howard Hughes, manufacturer, aviator and film producer, on flight to Houston, Texas, 1976; Sir Arthur Harris, Marshal of the RAF, Goring, Oxfordshire, 1984.

Memorial service

Sir John Paget

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir John Starr Paget was held yesterday at Christ Church, Victoria Road, W8. The Rev Ian Robson officiated.

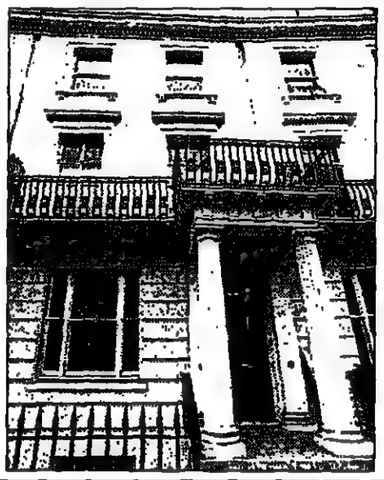
Mrs Adrian Pollard, daughter, read the lesson, Mrs Christopher Inge, daughter, read from Kipling's *When Earth's Last Picture is Painted* and Sir Patrick Neill, QC, gave an address. Among others present were:

Nancy Lady Paget (widow), Sir Richard and Lady Paget and Mr and Mrs David Paget (sons and daughters-in-law), Mr and Mrs Philip Hawkes, Brigadier and Mrs Charles Vyvyan and Major and Mrs Simon Thornhill (sons-in-law and daughters), the Rev Adrian Pollard and Mr Christopher Inge (sons-in-law), Miss Emma Paget, Miss Lucy Hawkes, Miss Alexia Inge, Miss Olivia Inge, James Pollard, Ben Pollard and Miss Catherine Thornhill (grandchildren), Lady Chancellor (sister), Miss Sheila Parish (sister-in-law), Dr Brigid Balfour, Mr and Mrs Christopher Parish, Mr and Mrs John Wells, Mr and Mrs Nicholas Johnson, Lady Neill, Miss Emma Neill, Mr and Mrs Peter Horsford, Lord Crawshaw, the Hon John Brooks, Sir William Gladstone, Lady Soames, Mr Anthony Parish, Mrs H J Parker, Mr William Gatacre, Miss Sophie Gatacre, Mr Thomas Gatacre, Miss Dolly Gatacre, Mrs Peter Horsfield.

Lord and Lady Nelson of Stafford, Lord and Lady Huntingfield, Sir John and the Hon Lady Stephenson, Lady Prudence Loudon, the Hon Mrs M E Geddes, Sir Martyn and Lady Beckett, Sir Duncan Oppenheim, Sir William and Lady Wilkinson, Sir Gilbert Longden, Lady Bayliss, Lady Brown, Mr Alan Vessey (representing Napier Power Heritage), Mr Robert Dalgety (Sotheby's), Mr R Newey and Miss Pauline Griffiths (Paget Gorman Society), Mr Royden Morgan (Bishop Creighton House, London), Prebendary and Mrs John Collins, Mr Geoffrey Hoare, Mrs E Norman Butler, Mr Alex Coombe-Tennant, Mr John Coombe-Tennant, Mr and Mrs Oliver Lebus, Major and Mrs Michael Woodbine Parish, Mr and Mrs Alastair Timpson, Mr and Mrs George Doughty, Professor and Mrs B Keith-Lucas and Mr Ronald Thomas.

JULIAN HERBERT

The first-floor drawing room and, below, the elegant stucco frontage on Royal Crescent



Time-capsule for sale

A London family house that has remained unchanged since before the first world war is for sale, price £495,000 (writes Rachel Kelly).

The white stucco terraced house, 26, Royal Crescent, near Holland Park, west London, relects the age of tweenies and coal fires, butlers and oil-lamps. The kitchen still sports its original cast-iron range fed on coal or wood. The butler's sink nestles in one corner and the scullery has its original wooden shelves. On one wall is the winch for a turn-of-the-century dumb waiter, which arrives in the middle of the dining room upstairs on the ground floor.

Upstairs is the drawing room, with its Victorian fireplace, mahogany furniture and a boudoir grand piano. This was a favourite possession of the house's last resident, Mrs Ida Judge, who moved in with her family in 1912 and learnt to play the piano as a little girl. She later married an airline pilot and brought up her three children in the house, and remained there till her death last year at the age of 96.

Up the next flight of stairs are the bedrooms where faded striped hat-boxes from Harrods sit on top of the large mahogany cupboards; the bookshelves are full of dust-covered leather-bound volumes of Macaulay's *History of England* and there is not a radiator or fitted cupboard in sight.

The agents are Knight Frank & Rutley.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.J.G. Allen and Miss E.J. Doughty
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs Frank Allen, of Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, and Elise, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Neville Doughty, of Ealing, London.

Mr M.E.K. Allen and Dr K.J. Stephens
The engagement is announced between Malcolm, son of Mr and Mrs D. Charles Allen, of Toorak, Australia, and Katrina, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs William Stephens, of Aulbery, Australia.

Mr J.N. Couch and Miss N.D.M. Conway
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs J.W. Couch, of Clevedon, Avon, formerly of Kenilworth, Warwickshire, and Nicolette, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.G. Conway, of Benenden, Kent.

Mr G.B. Harley-Mason and Dr G.R. Ottaway
The engagement is announced between Geoffrey, elder son of the late Mr Alan Harley-Mason and of Mrs Margery Harley-Mason, of Southampton, and Gillian, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Dennis Ottaway, of Moulton, Lincolnshire.

Mr P.H. Horsman and Miss S.E. Cartwright
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr H. Horsman and the late Mrs Horsman, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr A.T. Cartwright and Mrs M. Cartwright.

Mr D.W. Horton and Mrs C.R. Davis
The engagement is announced between David Horton, of Old Vicarage Cottage, Ipsden, Oxfordshire, and Cally Davis, of Linscot, Berrick Salome, Oxfordshire.

Mr W.K. Robertson and Miss M.B. Baxter
The engagement is announced between William Keith, third son of Mr J. Robertson, of Cardonald, Glasgow, and Mrs M. Matchett, of Kilmaurs, Kilmarnock, and Maureen Bernadette, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs T J Baxter, of Fulham, London. The wedding will take place on the Isle of Arran on Midsummer's Eve.

Mr D.J. Robinson and Miss C.M. Hitchcock
The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Bartram Robinson, of Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex, and Candida Mary (Polly), youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Hitchcock, of York.

Mr M.R.M. Stallion and Miss P.E. O'Rorke
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs R.F. Stallion, of Seaford, and Patricia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs T.M. O'Rorke, of Wadhurst.

Mr T.A. de B. Wates and Miss N.F. Ogilvy Watson
The engagement is announced between Timothy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Wates, of Newdigate, Surrey, and Nicola, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Ogilvy Watson, of County Wicklow, Republic of Ireland.

Mr G.J.D. Wragg and Miss J. Croome Carroll
The engagement is announced between Gavin, younger son of the late Major Frederick Wragg and of Mrs Timothy Parsons, and Jonah, youngest daughter of Mrs Evie Croome Carroll, of Lisronagh, Eire.

Dinners

Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress were represented by Alderman Sir Hugh and Lady Bidwell, accompanied by Mr Sheriff and Mrs Perring, at the annual livery dinner of the Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators held last night at Stationers' Hall. Dr Roy Harris, Master, presided. Sir Hugh, the Senior Warden and the Earl of Limerick also spoke.

Montgomeryshire Society
Mr Stephen Richards, President of the Montgomeryshire Society, presided at the annual dinner held last night at the Royal Society of Medicine. Viscount Tonypandy also spoke.

Royal College of Radiologists
Dr J.O.M.C. Craig, President of the Royal College of Radiologists, gave a dinner last night at 38 Portland Place for members of the education board (clinical radiology).

Church services tomorrow

Fifth Sunday in Lent

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30M; 11 Sung Euch, Harwood in A flat, Hide not thy face (Farrant), the Archdeacon; 3.15 E, Responses (Rose), St Paul's Service (Howells), O for a closer walk (Stanford); 6.30 Sermon and Compline, Rev J W R Mowll.

YORK MINSTER: 8 & 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, As Moses lifted up the serpent (Bairstow), Mass for five voices (Byrd), Very Rev J Southgate; 11.30 M, Responses (Smith), Stanford in B flat; 4 E, Stanford in C, O Lord, look down from heaven (Battishill), Rev L Carberry.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Responses (Byrd), Benedicite (Jackson in G), Benedictus (Moore), Rev V Stock; 11.30 HC, Missa Bella Amfitrit altera (Lassus), O Saviour of the world (Goss); 3.15 E, Wesley in E, Civitas sancti tui (Byrd), Rev C Hill.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Tallis), Benedicite (Batten), John IV of Portugal Crux Fidelis, Rev June Osborne; 11.15 Abbey Euch, Mass on a mean (Shepherd), Canon A Harvey; 3 E, Introit Jesu, grant me this I pray, Sumsion in G, Wills Miserere mei, Canon P Buter; 3.45 Organ recital; 6.30 ES, James Naters.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 HC; 11 Euch, Meane Mass (Taverner), Out of the deep (Tomkins), Ave verum (Carol), Rev N Worn; 3 E, Evening Service (Dovaston), Laboravi in gemitu meo (Caldara), Rev N Worn.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: Masses 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30 & 7; 10.30 SM, Asperges me (Palestrina), Missa Jesu nostra redemptio (Palestrina), Confitebor tibi, Domine (Lassus), Lacrimans sitivit anima mea (de Cristo); 10 MP; 2.30 Organ recital; 3.30 Solemn V & B, Magnificat primi toni (Suriano), O Lord, give ear (Byrd).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 6 LM (Sat); 8, 10 (Children's service), 6 LM; 11.30 HM, L'Hora Passa (Viadana), Miserere Mei (Allegri), Fr M Jones; 3.30 Adult Confirmation, Rt Rev J Jukes; 5 Stations of the Cross, Fr M Jones.

GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE DIVINE WISDOM, Moscow Rd, W2: 9.30 M; 11 Divine Liturgy.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, Ennismore Gdns, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy.

SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF ST SAVVA, Lancaster Rd, W11: 10.30 Divine Liturgy.

THE CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Mass in three parts (Byrd), Canon J V Bean.

ROYAL HOSPITAL, Chelsea, SW3: 11 M, Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow), Salvator Mundi (Blow), Fugue in A flat minor (Brahms), Bishop Maddocks.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Benedicite (Dyson in F), Blessed are they that mourn (Brahms), Ven G Cassidy; 12.30 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 10.30 HC, Stainer's Crucifixion.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 HC, Is it nothing to you (Brown), Missa Brevis (Monteverdi), All in the April evening (Mount), The Chaplain.

GRAY'S INN CHAPEL: 8.30 HC, Rev Canon E James.

LINCOLN'S INN CHAPEL: 11.30 MP & Sermon, Benedicite, Jubilate, Out of the deep (Morley), Rev F V A Boyse.

TOWER OF LONDON, EC3: 11 Matins & Sermon, Responses (Ebdon), Benedicite (Ridout), Benedictus (Chand), In ieiunio et fletu (Tallis).

TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street, EC4: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, O vos omnes (Palestrina), Responses (Rose), Benedicite omnia opera (Barnett), Benedictus (Mundy), The Master.

ST CLEMENT DANES (RAF Church) WC2: 9 HC; 11 M, Rev G B McAvoy; 12.15 HC.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Responses (Smith), Wood in the Phrygian mode, Creed de Angelis, Christus factus est (Bruckner); 3.30 E, Responses (Rose), God so loved the world (Stainer), Gibbons short service, Drop, drop, slow tears (Walton).

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER: 11 S Euch, Rev Canon S Van Culin.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 11 HM, Wood in the Phrygian Mode, Tristis est anima mea (Poulenc), Rev P Ferguson; 6 E&B, Short service (Gibbons), O vos omnes (Gesualdo), Rev C Jones.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 11 Rev S Wookey; 6.30 Rev J Cook.

CHRIST CHURCH, CHELSEA, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.30 Sung Euch, Remember not Lord our offences (Purcell), Prelude & Fugue in G (Bach), Rev S Acland; 6.30 E, Lie still O sacred limbs (Bach), Dr Glazer.

HOLY TRINITY, Brompton Road, SW7: 10.30 Family C, J Jennings; 6.30 ES, Nicky Gumbel.

HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street, SW1: 8.45 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Dodgson), Rev E Yates.

ST ALBAN'S, Brooke St, EC1: 9.30 SM; 11 HM, Missa Cantuariensis (Rubbra), Rev J Gaskell; 5.30 LM.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Crux fidelis (King John of Portugal), The Rector; 6.30 E, Plainsong & faux-bourdons (Morley), Miserere (Allegri), The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, The Lamentation (Bairstow), Missa brevis (Palestrina), Canon J Robenson; 6.30 Choral E, Responses (Sumsion), E Canticles (Gray in F minor), O vos omnes (Casals), Rev J [illegible].

ST CUTHBERT'S, Philbeach Gardens SW5: 10 HC; 11 Sung Euch, Darke in A Minor, Hide not Thou thy face from me, O Lord (Farrant), Rev J Vine.

ST GEORGE'S, Bloomsbury, WC1: 10 Euch; 6.30 EP, Fr M Day.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 Sung Euch, Mass for 8 voices (Hassler), The Rector.

ST GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS, St Giles High St, WC2: 8 HC; 11 MP, Rev G Taylor; 12 HC; 6.30 EP, Rev P Paunch; 7.15 HC.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 Sung Euch, Rev John Paul.

ST JAMES'S, Muswell Hill, N10: 8 HC; 10.30 Morning Worship, Rev J Wood; 6.30 Evening Praise, Rev G Williams.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev D Reeves; 5.45 EP.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass in the Phrygian Mode (Wood), God so loved the world (Stainer), The Vicar; 6 Choral E & Ministry of Healing, Short Service (Morley), Hear my prayer, O Lord (Purcell), Rev B Newton.

ST JOHN'S, Hyde Park Crescent, W2: 8 HC (said); 10 Parish Communion, Bishop of Fulham (Confirmation); 6.30 ES, Mrs Jill Carman.

ST JOHN'S WOOD CHURCH, NW8: 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 Sung Euch, Mass of four voices (Byrd), My God my God (Blow), Rev D Frith.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 10 Family C; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), A Litany (Walton), Rev T Devonshire Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 Sung Euch, Missa Euge Bone (Tye), Emendemus in melius (Byrd), Rev R Holloway.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Mass (Stokes), Thou knowest, Lord (Purcell), Lead me, Lord (Wesley), Rev J Saville; 11.30 Visitors to London Service, The Vicar; 12.30 HC; 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev Dr Joyce Bennett; 5 Choral E, Responses (Sumsion), Lamentations of Jeremiah (Bairstow), Magnificat, Nunc Dimittis (Darke in F), Hear my prayer (Purcell); 6.30 ES, Rev J Fridmore; 7.30 HC.

ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington, W8: 8 & 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, Fr P Roshuvel; 11.15 Choral M & Passion music; 6.30 E, Fr F Gelli.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 9.45, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa Dominator Deus (Plainsong), Fr T Richardson; 6 Solemn E&B.

ST MARY'S, Primrose Hill, NW3: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Setting (Plainsong), O vos omnes (Gesualdo), Rev P Stephens; 6 Passiontide Recital of Music and Readings.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa O Quam gloriosum (Victoria), Sancte Deus (Tallis); 6.30 Ministry of Healing, Rev V Makin.

ST MARY-LE-STRAND (WRNS Church), Strand WC2: 11 Sung Euch, Rev D Clarke.

ST MATTHEW'S, Great Peter St, SW1: 8, 6.30 LM; 10 SM, Rev R Crawford.

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 Choral Euch, Westron Wynde Mass (Tye), Christe Jesu, pastor bone (Taverner).

ST PAUL'S, Onslow Square, SW7: 10.30 Family HC; 6.30 Informal Service.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8 & 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Missa octavi toni (Lassus), Consider, all ye passers by (Amner), Christus factus est (de Vivanco), Rev H Ruschmeyer.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Wash me throughly (Wesley), Fr C Colven; 6.30 Stations of the Cross & Benediction.

ST VEDAST, Foster Lane, EC2: 11 Sung Mass, Rev K Avern.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev Suzanne Dunleavy; 6.30 Rev J H McIndoe.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev H S C Hood; 12.20 HC; 6.30 Rev H S C Hood.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 French Mass (Shepherd), Seventh Penitential Psalm (Lassus).

CHURCH OF OUR LADY, Lisson Grove, St John's Wood: 10.45 Sung Latin Mass, Missa quando lieta (Palestrina), O vos omnes (Lupo).

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM, Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Justorum animae (Stanford), Vexilla Regis prodeunt (Bruckner), Fr M Beattie.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: Masses 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.30, 4.30 & 7; 3.30 V & B.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11, Missa brevis (Palestrina), O vos omnes (Victoria), Variations on a theme of Clement Jannequin (Alain).

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES, Kensington High Street, W8: 8.30, 10, 12.30, 6.30 LM; 11.15 SM, Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Adoramus te Christe (Palestrina), Ave Regina coelorum (Plainsong).

AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, Tottenham Court Rd, W1: 9.45 Sunday School; 11 Worship, Rev R Allison.

CITY TEMPLE, Holborn, EC1: 10.30 Rev Jean Darnall.

HINDE STREET METHODIST CHURCH, W1: 11 Rev P Hoar; 6.30 Stainer's Crucifixion.

KENSINGTON TEMPLE, (Charismatic), Notting Hill Gate, W11: 9 C, Colin Dye; 11 Celebration, Colin Dye; 2.30 Baptism, Gareth Lewis; 6.30 Healing, William Burland; 9 Late on Sunday, The Chain Gang.

REGENT SQUARE URC (Presbyterian-Congregational), Tavistock Place, WC1: 11 HC, Rev Dr R Scopes; 6.30 Rev K Swaine.

SALVATION ARMY (Regent Hall), Oxford St W1: 11 & 6.30 Major C Hunt.

ST ANDREW'S URC, Frognal Lane NW3: 11 Rev Dr P Morgan.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev Theodore Johns; 7 Choral M, Missa Choralis (Liszt), Rev R Englund.

ST JOHN'S WOOD URC, NW8: 11 MS, Rev W McCrorie.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev P Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, Buckingham Gate, SW1: 11, 6.30 Rev Dr R T Kendall.

WESTMINSTER MEETING SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), 52 St Martins La WC2: 11, Meeting for worship.

Church news

Clergy appointments

The Rev Ian Hooper, Curate, Martlesham with Brightwell: to be Rector, Pakenham with Norton and Tostock (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Robin King, Curate, St Augustine of Hippo, Ipswich: to be Vicar, St Mary's, Bures (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

Telephone 071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telefax 071 782 7827

Stay awake all of you and pray that you may be spared the test. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.
St Mark 14 : 38 (REB)

BIRTHS

BATESON - On March 29th at Queen Charlotte's Hammersmith, to Jill and Julian (née Wilson), a son, Edward Bertie, a brother to James, Charles and Sarah.

BRAY - On March 30th 1992, to Debbie (née Gilliam) and Mark, a daughter, Isabelle Sophia Helen, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton.

CARRICK SMITH - On April 2nd at St George's Hospital to Anna (née Salapson) and John, a son, William John.

CLAYTON - On April 3rd to Alison (née Barnes) and Andrew, a daughter, Sarah Emily Grace.

EVANS - On March 29th at Kings College Hospital to Emma (née Roderick) and Crelon, a son, Nicholas John Joseph, a brother for Hugh and Harriet.

FINN - On March 31st at the Humana Hospital Wellington, to Laurence and Susan, a daughter, Rachel.

FLANDERS - See Vaughan.

HAZELL - On March 30th in Cambridge, to Liz (née Klein) and Michael, a son, Nicholas Anthony.

HEATH - On March 31st, at the Lindo Wing, to Amanda (née Inskip) and Michael, a daughter, Abigail Naomi, a sister for Joshua.

KREYER-PEAKE - On March 23rd, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital Hammersmith, to Pandora and Michael, a son, Oliver Adam and a daughter, Sophie Jessica.

LAMBERT - On March 28th 1992, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Simone and David, a daughter, Eliza Harriet.

LAMBERT - On March 30th to Helen (née Browne) and Ralph, a daughter, Josephine Ruth, a sister for Anna.

MARTIN - On April 2nd to Amanda (née Lindley) and Stephen, a son, Edward John.

MELHUISH - On March 12th at home to Joanna (née Marchbanks) and Simon, a daughter, Ella Katharine, a sister for Thomas.

RUSSELL - On March 17th in Aberdeen, to Ian and Sharon, a daughter, Katie Jean, a sister for Anna.

BIRTHS

SOAMES - On April 2nd to Milly and Rupert, a daughter Daisy, a sister for Arthur.

TANIGUCHI - On March 28th, at the Humana Hospital Wellington, to Toshikazu and Rumiko, a son, Shota.

VAUGHAN - On March 26th 1992 at the John Radcliffe Maternity Hospital Oxford, to Rosemary Flanders and Gerard Vaughan, a daughter, Alexandra Rose Olivia Flanders Vaughan.

VENTON - On March 26th 1992 at Pembury Hospital, to Susan (née Alex) and Jeremy, a beautiful son Harry William Albert.

DEATHS

ANDREWS - On April 3rd 1992 at home, Elizabeth Margaret, beloved mother of Richard, Sally and Neil. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Woodbridge, Suffolk, on Thursday April 9th at 2 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to St Elizabeth's Hospice, Foxhall Road, Ipswich.

BULLETT - On April 3rd peacefully after an illness, Kenneth Douglas DSC aged 75. Dearly loved husband of Cecily, father of Michael, Andrew and the late Julian and grandfather and father in law. Funeral Service at St Mary's, Salehurst, on Tuesday April 7th at 2 pm followed by cremation at Eastbourne. Family flowers to C. Waterhouse & Sons, High Street, Burwash (0435 882219), any donations to St Michael's Hospice, Upper Maze Hill, St Leonards on Sea, E. Sussex.

DEWHURST - On April 2nd peacefully in her sleep at the hospice, Jane, mother of Sam and Emily. Funeral 12 noon on Wednesday April 8th at St Mary's without the Walls, Chester. Donations to the Hospice of the Good Shepherd, Backford, Cheshire.

HALL-SMITH - On March 30th, peacefully and gratefully at her own house, Kathleen Mary (Kay), Mater Familias to Michael and Hilda and their three children. Funeral Service at Mintlyn Crematorium on Tuesday April 7th 1992 at 12.30pm. No flowers please.

DEATHS

EARP - On April 1st suddenly, Cicely Margaret Earp ARRC, TD, of Hampstead, widow of Charles Earp OBE. Private family funeral to be followed at a later date by a Remembrance Service. No flowers thank you, but donations to a Service Charity in memory of her time in the QARANC and the FANY or to the RSPB would be appreciated. Enquiries to (0734) 842242.

HAVERS - On April 1st 1992 The Right Honourable Lord Robert Michael Oldfield Baron of St Edmundsbury, beloved husband of Carol, dear father of Philip and Nigel, loving grandfather of Kate, Holly and Daniel. Private funeral service (family only) at St Peter's Church, Nowton, Bury St Edmunds, on Saturday April 4th. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to SEQUAL (Special Equipment and Aids for Living), 8 St Georges Court, Gloucester Road, London SW7 4QZ. Memorial Service will be held in due course.

LOWE - On March 31st suddenly, Paul Clive, a much loved and sorely missed son, husband, father and grandfather. Cremation at Guildford Crematorium on Thursday April 9th at 3 pm. Donations if desired, to King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, West Sussex.

McCLURE - On April 2nd, peacefully at home in Bletchingley, Allan, aged 85, beloved husband of the late Marjorie, much loved by his family. Funeral at St Peter's Church, Limpsfield, on Wednesday April 8th at 12.30. Enquiries to Ebbutt Funeral Service, High Street, Limpsfield, tel Oxted 713767.

PEAVER - On April 3rd 1992 peacefully in Plumstead Nursing Home, Holt, Norfolk, Diana Devonport, aged 75, much loved wife of the late Commander Geoffrey Peaver, RN, mother of Richard, grandmother of Louisa and Arabella and daughter of the late Claude Devonport of Johannesburg.

DEATHS

RAWLINGS - On April 1st, peacefully at Glebe House, Church Lane, Wormley, Herts aged 93, Eva Loveday, wife of the late Admiral Sir Bernard Rawlings. Funeral Service at St Laurence's Church, Wormley at 2 pm on Wednesday April 8th, followed by private cremation. Flowers may be sent to Alfred Searles, 13 Port Hill, Hertford.

ROGERS - On Thursday April 2nd 1992 Olive, on her 80th birthday, peacefully at The Grange, Bottisham, Cambridge. Loved by family and friends. Funeral Service to be held at Cambridge City Crematorium on Wednesday April 8th at 3.45 pm. Family flowers only, but donations appreciated to 'Age Concern' c/o Harry Williams and Sons, 7 Victoria Park, Cambridge.

TIBBITTS - On Thursday April 2nd, peacefully after a brief illness at Alpine Lodge Nursing Home, Ventnor, IOW, Arthur Tibbitts ISO aged 86. The funeral will take place at The IOW Crematorium, Whippingham on Friday April 10th at 2.30pm. Floral tributes or donations, if desired, to Mountbatten House or MENCAP (Haylands Farm, Ryde, IOW) and sent to Henry Ingram & Sons Ventnor Ltd, 12-20 Albert Street, Ventnor, tel (0983) 852028.

WILLIAMS-FREEMAN - On April 2nd at The Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, Kitty, beloved wife of the late William Peere Williams Freeman, dear mother of Caroline, Julia and Annabelle and a devoted Grandmother and Great Grandmother.

WILSON - On April 2nd, in Yeovil Hospital, now at peace after a long illness, James Thomas Arnold, aged 76. Dearly loved husband of Judy and wise and cherished father to Carol, Gay, Vianna and grandfather to his six grandchildren. Funeral Service at St Michael's Church, Rampisham, Dorset for family and friends. No mourning dress. Family flowers only, but donations if wished to St John Ambulance Assoc., c/o A J Wakely & Sons, 33 Sparrow Road, Yeovil, Somerset.

DEATHS

WYKES - On April 1st 1992 peacefully at home, Bert Boyden Wykes OBE aged 82. Dear husband of Dorothy, patient father of Felicity. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Combe Down, Bath, on Thursday April 9th at 12 noon, followed by cremation. No flowers. Donations for RSPB to G. Mannings & Sons Ltd., Oxford House, North Road, Combe Down, Bath BA2 5HW.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

ADAMS - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Betty Isabel Adams (previously Tucker), who died on March 26th in Taunton, will be held at All Saints Church, Findon Valley, Worthing on Friday April 10th at 2 pm followed by tea at "Fircaldene", Findon Road, by kind permission of John Tucker, tel (0903) 261231.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BELL - On April 5 1911 suddenly at Printing House Square, E.C., Charles Frederick Moberly Bell, Managing Director of The Times, of 22 Park Crescent, Portland Place, W., aged 64.

JEMISON - Mair B A (Hons) Durham 1991. Missed so very much, especially on his birthday. Ada.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s.27 of the TRUSTEE ACT 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified, after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

APPLEBY, ANNIE of Ravenscroft Nursing Home, 3/4 Ravenscroft Park, Barnet, Herts EN5 4NH died on 17th February 1992. Particulars to Rayner De Wolfe, Solicitors of 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HJ before 15th June 1992.

TRUSTEE ACTS

CHAPMAN, ERIC RALPH of 13 Thames Meadow, Hurst Park, East Molesey, Surrey died on 22nd June 1991. Particulars to Alsop Wilkinson Solicitors of 6 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2SS before 9th June 1992.

CHILDS, [illegible] MARY of Old Place Manor, Pulborough, West Sussex and Flat 17, St James's Chambers, London SW1 died on 21st December 1991. Particulars to Linklaters & Paines (Ref JOM) Solicitors of Barrington House, 59-67 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7JA before 8th June 1992.

HARRIS, LOUIS of 45 Portland Road, Tottenham, London, N15 4SS died on 30th December 1991. Particulars to Rayner De Wolfe Solicitors of 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HJ before 15th June 1992.

KILLICK, KATHLEEN DOROTHY, 4 Highlands Road, Barton on Sea, Hants, died 31st December 1991. Particulars to Brook Oliver & Company Solicitors, 2 Station Road, New Milton, Hants, BH25 6JX before 1st June 1992.

TRUSTEE ACTS

MOORE, MICHAEL AUGUSTINE of 1 Mill Green, London Road, Mitcham Junction, Mitcham, Surrey died on 27th December 1991. Particulars to Godfrey Davis & Baldwin Solicitors of 19A Lower Green East, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3NH before 15th June 1992.

WILLIAMS, PETER CLARINGBOULD, 18 Methuen Close, Edgware, Middlesex. Died 9th April 1991. Particulars to Piper Smith & Basham (Ref [illegible]) Williams Solicitors, 31 Warwick Square, London SW1V 2AF before 12th June 1992.

PERSONAL AND LEGAL NOTICES APPEAR ON THE PERSONAL PAGE

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20

WEBSTER
(c) A weaver, from the OE *webbestre* a female weaver: "The websters weary at their looms,/Maun still be at them thruming."

FNESE
(a) To sneeze, snore, puff or snort, from the Old English *fnesan* sternutatio: "Constantine sayeth that fnesyng is a violent meuynge of ye brain to put out superfluities of fumosities thereof."

SATISPASSION
(a) Atonement by an adequate degree of suffering, a theological Latin term from *satis* enough + *pati* to suffer: "This is done either by satispassion, suffering the pains of Purgatory for a certain time . . ."

AMNICOLIST
(b) Dwelling by a river, from the Latin *amnis* a river + *colere* to cultivate, hence inhabit: "Judging from the deposits, most of the primitive inhabitants of south-eastern England were amnicolists."

PERSONAL APPEARS IN THE WEEKEND TIMES SECTION ON PAGE 16

OBITUARIES

HARRY ORLINSKY

Harry M. Orlinsky, biblical scholar, died in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 21 aged 84. He was born in Ontario, Canada, on March 14, 1908.

IN 1954, searching for the most reliable biblical scholar to examine four Dead Sea Scrolls offered for sale, the Israeli government approached Harry Orlinsky for his advice. He examined the scrolls in a New York City bank, concealing his identity as Israel's representative, and then sent the code word to an unlisted number to indicate the authenticity of the scrolls. It was only one page in a life which was filled with remarkable achievements as a scholar and human being.

Orlinsky was the outstanding Bible scholar of his time, called to New York's Jewish

Institute of Religion by its founder Stephen S. Wise in 1943. Previously, Orlinsky had taught at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and at the Baltimore Hebrew College, later University.

Any room or lecture hall lit up when Orlinsky walked through the door. His sense of humour and his uncanny awareness of a hidden flaw in many texts presented to him often led him into battles with other scholars which he thoroughly enjoyed. It was Orlinsky, in his *Ancient Israel* (1954, reprinted 1972 as *Understanding the Bible Through History and Archaeology*), who cheerfully challenged the European scholars who posited a confederacy of tribes in pre-monarchic Israel, a sacral league resembling a Greek amphictyony. He slew other sacred bulls as well, although not always supported by his colleagues. Thus, he questioned the approach which saw "universalism" as the centre of the prophetic teachings, and he seriously questioned the "Suffering Servant" in Deutero-Isaiah. This study, published in 1964, stressed that the notion of such a servant, innocent and dying for others, was *not* known in Jewish thought until the first century.

He took another controversial, though substantiated, position when he challenged the St Mark's Isaiah Scroll from the Judean desert, indicating its unreliability as a text and that this scroll was copied from memory and was unreliable.

It was not profitable to quarrel with a scholar who served as a president of the Society for Biblical Literature (1970) and who served as the only Jew on the Revised Standard Version translation of the Bible for the American Protestant community (in 1952). In 1962, when the Jewish Publication Society of America (JPSA) published its translation for the Jewish community, Orlinsky was the editor-in-chief. Again, when the Newly Revised Standard Version translation appeared in 1990 for a united Christian community, Orlinsky, again the only Jew, had taken an active part in the translation.

His own work ranged from studies of the Greek Septuagint to the Book of Job. All of his work benefited from an easy, persuasive style and original insights buttressed by solid research. Always, he was surrounded by disciples who were encouraged to disagree and to challenge the master.

In 1991 the Hebrew Union College-JIR honoured Orlinsky with the Dr Bernard Heller Prize, citing his role in establishing an inter-disciplinary approach of archaeology, philology, comparative linguistics and comparative religion in the study of the Bible.

He was concerned with and involved in Israel, and enjoyed politics. New York City was a good background in providing the excitement he needed. He was "street-wise" and enjoyed being so.

PAUL HENREID

Paul von Henreid, Austrian-born stage and screen actor who worked for many years in Hollywood, died in Santa Monica on March 29 in his eighties. He was born in Trieste, probably on January 10, 1908.

A SCENE in Paul Henreid's second Hollywood picture, *Now Voyager* (1942), in which he lit two cigarettes and handed one of them to Bette Davis, instantly established his screen style and popularity. From this time on he was generally typed as the suave, elegant, aristocratic — if characteristically somewhat gloomy — Continental lover. His next film appearance however, as the stoical resistance fighter in *Casablanca* (1943), was to guarantee his permanent place in Hollywood mythology.

In the next two decades he played in some 27 films. In *Song of Love* he was Robert Schumann, in *Last of the Buccaneers* Jean Lafitte, and in *Deep in My Heart* Florenz Ziegfeld. He co-starred with Bette Davis again in *Deception* (1946). Few of his roles from the later years remain particularly memorable. In 1969 he returned to Britain to play the General in Bryan Forbes' and John Huston's film of Giraudoux's *The Madwoman of Chaillot*. He made a final cameo appearance in John Boorman's *Exorcist II: The Heretic*, in 1977.

In 1952 Henreid turned director with *For Men Only*, giving himself a somewhat narcissistic role as a professor who campaigns against brutal initiation rites in his college. Subsequent pictures as director were *A Woman's Devotion* (1957) and *Dead Ringer* (English title, *Dead Image*, 1964). In this last film he created a ripe melodramatic vehicle for his former co-star Bette Davis, now in her late fifties: she played a dual role as twin sisters, one of whom does away with the other. The film also provided a role for Henreid's daughter Monika, who survives him.

Paul Henreid with Bette Davis in *Now Voyager*, 1942.

Like so many actors, Paul Henreid left some uncertainty about his exact age. He was born on January 10, but reference books disagree whether the year was 1905, 1907 or 1908. His father was the Viennese banker Count Carl von Henreid, and Henreid (as he later called himself for professional purposes) claimed the name and title of Paul George Julius Bernreid Ritter von Wasel Waldingau.

He studied in Vienna at the Maria Teresa Academy and the Institute of Graphic Arts. While working as a designer in a publishing house he attended night classes at the Konservatorium, where he was spotted by Max Reinhardt's managing director, the future film director Otto Preminger, who engaged him for Reinhardt's theatre.

One of his early stage appearances in Vienna was playing the young Emperor Franz Josef in matinée performances of the musical *Cissy*, by Herbert and Ernst Marischka, which drew heavily on songs by Fritz Kreisler. His co-star on those Viennese afternoons was Hedwig Kiesler, later to be known as Hedy Lamarr. Josef von Sternberg later filmed *Cissy* as *The King Steps Out*, but used Franchot Tone and Grace Moore in the leading roles.

Subsequently Henreid played in two films directed in Germany by Erich Engel, a Reinhardt disciple and frequent collaborator with Brecht. The star of both films, *Hohe Schule* (1934) and *...nur ein Komödiant* (1935) was Rudolf Forster, whose dashing elegance was perhaps an influence on the young Henreid.

In 1935, anticipating the precarious political future, Henreid moved to Britain. The English stage was not at that time particularly hospitable to emigrés, but with his aristocratic good looks, Henreid began to land film roles. His walk-on in Herbert Wilcox's *Victoria the Great* is not credited. Under the name of Paul von Hernreid, however, he had a featured part in Carol Reed's *Night Train to Munich*, as a Nazi villain masquerading as a Czech patriot.

After one more film in Britain, playing Max von Staeffel in Sam Wood's *Goodbye Mr Chips*, Henreid decided to emigrate to the United States. He had a success on Broadway in *Flight to the West*, and was thereupon signed by RKO, definitively adopting the name of Paul Henreid. His first Hollywood appearance was with Michèle Morgan and Alan Ladd in *Joan of Paris*, the story of a young heroine of the resistance.

Henreid, who married Elisabeth Gluck in 1936, was granted American citizenship in 1946.

RAFAEL VALLS

Rafael Valls, barrister and diplomat, died on March 30 aged 80. He was born on January 19, 1912.

RARELY, if ever, can an English barrister have practised with unmatched expertise in his own sphere and yet also achieved the highest legal and diplomatic distinctions in another country. Rafael Valls, who advised on Spanish law for almost 60 years, did so.

He was born in England in 1912, the son of a high-ranking official in the Bank of Spain. After schooling at Chamartin de la Rosa College, Madrid, he completed his education at Stoneyhurst. He then won the Blackstone prizes to enter the Middle Temple, where he was called to the Bar in 1933. He was subsequently called to the Spanish Bar, but chose to practise for most of his life from the Temple. There passed through his chambers the great corporations, royalty, nobility and more ordinary folk who had property or matrimonial problems on which they needed help. He served them all unstintingly.

Rafael maintained a close connection with Spain. As early as 1940, he was appointed legal adviser to the Spanish Embassy. In 1965, he became a doctor of laws in Madrid. In 1975, he retired from the English Bar to take up a full-time diplomatic appointment at the Spanish Embassy in London.

During his time, he served no fewer than ten ambassadors in London. The continuity he provided, together with his depth of wisdom and experience, made him a cornerstone of the embassy. His influence and reputation were such that behind the scenes he played a valuable role in helping to secure the smooth transition from the Franco regime to the restoration of the monarch. He was a delegate to the negotiation of many legal conventions and author of many articles on Spanish law.

It is not only the Spanish authorities who had cause to value his abilities. Many UK citizens seeking to acquire property or to settle in Spain remember gratefully the free advice he dispensed from the embassy. It could not have come from a better source and was given with the humanity which is a hallmark of the finest lawyers.

His more lucrative practice brought its rewards. He was not extravagant or ostentatious, but he had a penchant for Rolls-Royces. These conflicting characteristics had their hazards. One Saturday morning, he set out to Marks & Spencer to seek good value in a pair of shoes. This involved passing the showrooms of a well-known Rolls-Royce dealer. A gleaming new Corniche was displayed in the window. The temptation proved irresistible and somewhat diminished the saving on the pair of shoes. He was a civilised man, who loved music and sailing.

Rafael was honoured by Spain and his titles were impressive. He became HE le Don Rafael Valls y Carreras LVO, Marques de la Fuente Olivares, Marques de la Culina, Knight Grand Cross of Civil Merit and Knight Commander the Order of Isabelle the Catholic.

But more impressive than even his titles were his hard

work and professionalism. Raf, as his friends affectionately knew him, had charm, kindness, wit and gentleness. He encouraged his younger colleagues. He also had courage which he displayed both in his sorties into Spain to give advice during the Civil War, and in the way he met death. He is survived by his wife, Diana, whom he married in 1947, and two sons.

REAR-ADMIRAL GARTH WATSON

Rear-Admiral John Garth Watson, CB, admiral superintendent of Rosyth dockyard, 1963-6, and later secretary of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), died on March 31 aged 78. He was born on February 20, 1914.

GARTH Watson was one of the Royal Navy's most innovative electrical engineers for a quarter of a century during and after the second world war. Among his most significant designs was the propulsion system for the Porpoise and Oberon classes of diesel-electric submarines, still used in the Upholder class now coming into service. While based at the ship design department in Bath he was also responsible for a revolutionary new high voltage electrical generation and distribution system for the CVA-01 class of aircraft carrier. But in this respect his energy was wasted.

Although the first of the three new carriers had been ordered, to replace those like the ageing *Eagle* and *Ark Royal*, the contract was cancelled in the 1960s amid scepticism over the future for big ships. The need for Watson's development vanished with it.

His most valuable work in the second world war, however, was carried out before he had joined the uniformed service. As a clever young Admiralty employee, he was posted to a team being assembled in 1939 to deal with the new threat from magnetic mines.

Although the theory behind the magnetic mine was well-known, the Germans had perfected it in secret and had caught the Royal Navy by surprise when they deployed them. Alarmed, the Admiralty launched an emergency research programme to develop new minesweeping equipment, as well as a degaussing system — for reducing the magnetic signature of ships' hulls.

The research was helped by the recovery of an intact mine from mudflats in the Thames estuary where it had been dropped by parachute by the Luftwaffe. A number of leading scientists were

drafted in, while Watson was involved in experimental work and trials.

Until then he had followed in the footsteps of his father, an electrical engineer working in Coventry. Garth had gone to University College School, Hampstead, then to Northampton Engineering College, London — now City University. He had also joined the Territorial Army as an officer in the Hertfordshire Regiment. But he had to resign his commission in the late 1930s when he accepted his research job with the Admiralty.

He did not join the navy until 1949. The technological advances during the war persuaded the navy to establish in 1946 its own electrical branch for the first time, incorporating radio and radar. Watson was an early recruit, transferring to the uniformed service with the ready-made rank of commander after taking a radio course at HMS *Collingwood*, the electrical school in Fareham. Fellow officers were to include his younger brother, now Vice-Admiral Sir Philip Watson. Garth Watson gained some sea-going experience in the early 1950s, serving in destroyers and a cruiser in the Home Fleet. But most of his subsequent career was spent ashore, in staff jobs or at one of the royal dockyards — Devonport, 1953-55, and Gibraltar, where he was superintending electrical engineer, 1957-60. After two years as assistant director of electrical engineering in Whitehall, he went on his last appointment to Rosyth. He retired from the navy in 1966.

Watson then began a second career as secretary to the Institution of Civil Engineers, applying himself with equal energy and initiative. During his 12 years at the helm, ICE membership rose from 38,000 to 57,650 while its annual turnover soared from £368,000 to £2,785,575.

Two-thirds of its income came from a commercial company, Thomas Telford Ltd, established with Watson as managing director to handle magazines and other publishing. Its flagship was the weekly magazine *New Civil Engineer*, whose independent editorial policies broke new ground for a professional journal of its kind.

Watson, a courteous man of great integrity, who expected the same meticulous performance from subordinates, retired once more in 1979 — only to set himself up as a writer and historian. His publications included *The Civils*, a history of the ICE, and *The Smeatonians*, a book about the Smeatonian Society, an exclusive engineers' dining club whose president Watson became in 1987. He also contributed to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

Among his many professional involvements, he was a liveryman of the Engineers' Company and the Guild of Freemen and a fellow of the Institute of Directors. His outside interests included deep water sailing (he belonged to the Royal Thames Yacht Club) and his local church.

He is survived by his wife, Betty, their two sons and a daughter.

SIR RAGHAVAN PILLAI

Sir Raghavan Pillai, KCIE, CBE, governor of the Reserve Bank of India and secretary general of external affairs in New Delhi from 1952 to 1955, died on March 31 aged 93. He was born on July 24, 1898.

RAGHAVAN Pillai accompanied Nehru on a number of his important missions abroad, including the long tour culminating in the Indian prime minister's visit to London on the eve of the Four Power Conference at Geneva in the summer of 1955. Pillai was one of the highly capable Indian members of the Indian Civil Service whose experience and knowledge were of the greatest value to the new independent governments, whether of India or Pakistan.

Narayana Raghavan Pillai, a son of N. C. Narkayana Pillai, of Trivandrum, South India, graduated at Madras University in arts, and gained a scholarship to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he took a first class in the natural sciences tripos in 1921 and in the law tripos in 1922. He went out to the Central Provinces as a member of the Indian Civil Service in the next year and in 1927 was appointed assistant collector of customs, Madras, two years later becoming deputy director of commercial intelligence, India, operating in Calcutta. His first experience in New Delhi was in the post of deputy secretary of the commerce department from 1932 to 1936. Thereafter he was, for a year, collector of customs in Karachi. In the spring of 1937 he returned to New Delhi on special duty in the commerce department, a year later becoming its joint secretary and, in the middle of the war period, was appointed its secretary.

In the autumn of 1944 he came to London on deputation at India House in Aldwych, and in 1946 was on the staff of the Indian delegation at the Paris peace conference. In 1952 Nehru appointed Pillai as secretary-general for external affairs influenced, no doubt, by the considerable experience he had gained in the realm of international commerce and finance. Soon afterwards Pillai succeeded to the post of governor of the Reserve Bank of India, and shared in the work of extending the scope of banking nationalisation decided upon by the Delhi Cabinet.

He was made CBE in 1937, a CIE in 1939, and advanced to KCIE in 1946. He was given the degree of honorary DLitt by Travancore University in 1953.

He married in 1928 Edith Millie Arthurs, by whom he had two sons. His wife died in 1976.

Roger Chapelain-Midy

ROGER Chapelain-Midy, a painter and designer whose works decorated the French National Theatre and the ocean liner *France*, has died of a cerebral hemorrhage aged 87. He was born in Paris on August 24, 1904.

In addition to murals in several prominent public buildings, Chapelain-Midy designed sets and costumes at the Paris Opéra. He illustrated books, including the complete works of André Gide, *The Flowers of Evil* of Baudelaire, and an edition of *A Thousand and One Nights*. He also produced theatrical sets, including, on one occasion, a decor for Mozart's *Magic Flute* at the Paris Opéra.

Chapelain-Midy, who had his first solo exhibition in 1930, was a professor at the national school of fine arts in Paris from 1955 to 1975. He was an ardent defender of the figurative style, an admirer of 18th-century masters such as Poussin, and remained aloof from more modern art tendencies.

Among his many awards was the Carnegie Prize in 1938.

April 4 ON THIS DAY 1893

Vigilance by port authorities was the most important factor in preventing outbreaks of the disease at home, and the writer noted with satisfaction that in the previous year when between 30 and 40 cases of cholera had been brought to our shores there had been no extension of the disease at all. In any case he believed that the bulk of the British people were now living in conditions in which the disease could not thrive.

CHOLERA

Anticipations of the reappearance of cholera in Western Europe this spring are being realised. At Lorient, on the French coast between Brest and Nantes, it has caused nearly seventy deaths in the course of the last fortnight, and the epidemic seems to be extending. The French authorities, in accordance with their usual practice, have kept the outbreak secret as long as possible, but it has now become too important to be hushed up any longer.

There is no accurate record of the numbers of non-fatal cases, but as the type of the disease in France during the last year or two has been much milder than in Russia and Germany, we may, perhaps, reckon three attacks to one death, and on this assumption we may suppose that within a couple of weeks there have been about 200 cases in the town. Unfortunately, the sanitary condition of Lorient, if not worse than that of many other provincial towns in France, is such as to afford a congenital field for any disease of which the spread is dependent on pollution of air, water or soil. Though there is a population of about 40,000 there is no drainage; and the filth, collected by what is known as the "pail system" is deposited on agricultural land which is the gathering ground of the water supply.

An official report describes the town as one of the most active centres of typhoid fever in the whole of France, the annual death-rate from that disease during a series of years having been no less than 18 per 10,000 inhabitants. When we remember that this is just about ten times the corresponding rate of mortality in London, we gain some notion of the favourable conditions which Lorient offers to what Sir John Simon has aptly called "filth diseases". It may be added that in a little more than six years, ending with 1890, the naval forces quartered there, having an average strength of about 4,000, lost nearly 300 men from typhoid fever, while the small military garrison has repeatedly suffered severely from the same cause. It might have been expected, for the obvious reason that what favours the spread of fever favours the spread of cholera, that when the latter disease broke out at Lorient last year, it would decimate the population. But it was not introduced until nearly the end of November, and, after a short outbreak it gradually died away in the cold weather, and disappeared in January. Now, with all the summer before it, there is ground for fearing that it may not relax its hold.

The immediate danger to this country is inconsiderable. The amount of our traffic with Lorient is trivial, for the port is little more than a naval arsenal, and exports to England little more besides a few cargoes of agricultural produce. But the reappearance of cholera on the Continent in epidemic form, after it has slumbered through the winter, is decidedly disquieting, nor is it without significance that this has occurred at one of the most southern points which it touched last year, and, therefore where the summer comes earliest. Fortunately, our sanitary defences, which satisfactorily bore the tests to which they were exposed last autumn, have been considerably improved during winter.

Latest wills

Mr Ralph Leonard Emmanuel **Dreschfield**, of West Mersea, Essex, former Attorney-General of Uganda, left estate valued at £380,944 net.

Mr Graham Paul **Nicholls**, of Edenbridge, Kent, left estate valued at £2,326,772 gross, net nil.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Mr Vernon Arthur **Tudball**, of Ottery St Mary, Devon, £913,791.

Mr Sidney **Aboody**, of Hampstead, London ..... £1,246,846.

Miss Margaret Jessie **Graham-Campbell**, of Cambridge ..... £531,173.

Mrs Marjorie Frances **Chapman**, of Moortown, West Yorkshire ..... £705,790.

Mr John Philip **Deacon**, of Clacton-on-Sea, Essex ..... £507,354.

Elizabeth Primrose **Dowsett**, of Frinton-on-Sea, Essex .. £806,649.

Miss Alexina Lindsay **Fitzmaurice**, of Lindfield, West Sussex ..... £1,043,998.

Mr Ernest George **Harding**, of Oadby, Leicestershire ... £634,263.

Mr Victor Robin **Joseph**, of London NW3 ..... £1,054,000.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Mr Peter Amenborough, headmaster of Charterhouse, 54; Sir John Beith, diplomat, 78; Mrs Margaret Dupont, tennis champion, 74; Brigadier Anne Field, former director, WRAC, 66; Mr J.M. Fleming, former chairman, Vauxhall Motors, 62; Mr Trevor Griffiths, playwright, 57; Lord Inchyra, 57; Earl Jellicoe, 74; Colonel Sir Bryce Knox, former Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, 76; Viscount Leathers, 84; Professor David Melville, Director, Middlesex Polytechnic, 48.

Mr Tim Newell, governor, Grendon Prison, 50; Mr Paul Parker, footballer, 28; Mr Anthony Perkins, actor, 60; Mr Ian Robertson, director, National Army Museum, 49; Mr Dave Sexton, football manager, 62; Dame Catherine Tizard, Governor-General of New Zealand, 61.

TOMORROW: Professor John Albery, master, University College, Oxford, 56; Miss Jane Asher, actress, 46; Mr Michael Bryant, actor, 64; Baroness Delacourt-Smith of Alteryn, 76; Mr Tom Finney, footballer, 70; Lady (Nigel) Fisher, founder, Women Caring Trust, 71; Dr John Gilbert, 65; Mr Arthur Hailey, author, 72; Mr Nigel Hawthorne, actor, 63; Sir Douglas Henley, former Auditor General, 73.

Professor Denis Lawton, former director, London University Institute of Education, 61; Admiral Sir Michael Livesay, Admiral President, RN College Greenwich, 56; Professor Donald Lynden-Bell, astronomer, 57; Mr Robert E. McKee, senior vice-president, administration, of Conoco Inc, 46; Professor Peter Moore, former principal, London Business School, 64; Mr Stanley Orme, 69; Mr Gregory Peck, actor, 76; Miss Jennifer Penney, ballerina, 46; General Colin Powell, chairman, American Joint Chiefs of Staff, 55; Mr Brian Rouse, jockey, 52.

Althorp closed

Althorp, the Northamptonshire home of Earl Spencer, is to remain closed to the public for a month, after the death of the eighth earl, it was announced yesterday.

Weekend royal engagements

TODAY

The Prince of Wales will attend the enthronement of the Right Rev Peter Ball as Bishop of Gloucester in Gloucester Cathedral at 2.20.

Prince Edward, as Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, will open the Partnership for Youth Day at the Metropolitan Police Cadet School, Hendon, at 10.15.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the London College of Music at Ealing, will attend a concert at the Church of St Barnabas, W5, at 7.30.

TOMORROW

Princess Margaret, as Patron of Tenovus and Tenovus-Scotland, will attend an opera gala at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall at 7.25 in aid of Tenovus-Scotland.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Army Educational Corps, will attend a church service at Eltham Palace at 11.00.

Service dinners

RN Submarine Service

Captain C.J. Childs, Submarine Chief Staff Officer Engineering, presided at a dinner held last night at HMS Dolphin to mark the retirement of Rear-Admiral D.M. Pulvertaft. Rear-Admiral P.J.W. Middleton and other colleagues, Vice-Admiral Sir Robert Hill, Chief Naval Engineer Officer, and Engineer Officers of the Submarine Service were present.

Honourable Artillery Company

Major J.M. Ferguson, Squadron Commander, presided at the Annual Dinner of III Squadron Honourable Artillery Company held at Armoury House last night. The principal guest was Major-General H.M. Rose, CBE, QGM, BA. 2nd Lieutenant R.S.T. Murphy proposed the health of the guests.

4th Parachute Brigade Group (1943/4)

General Sir John Hackett presided at a reunion dinner of the 4th Parachute Brigade Group (1943/4) Officers' Dining Club held last night at the Army and Navy Club. General Sir Frank King was among those present.

RAuxAF

Officers of No 600 (City of London Squadron) Royal Auxiliary Air Force held their annual dinner last night at RAF Biggin Hill to mark the closure of the station. Flight Lieutenant R.M. Oliver presided.

Framework Knitters' Company

The following have been installed as officers of the Framework Knitters' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Jeremy Ridge; Upper Warden, Mr Robert Wessel; Under Warden, Mr Peter Osborne.

Furniture Makers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Furniture Makers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr David Ross; Senior Warden, Mr F. Brian Perring; Junior Warden, Mr Raymond H. Leigh.

Careers fair cancelled as firms find little to offer

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION REPORTER

RECESSIONARY pressure and faltering business confidence have forced the organisers of a major careers fair to cancel the event and advise young people to stay in the education system until prospects brighten.

The Options fair, due to be held in Birmingham in October, attracted 60 stands and 14,000 visitors last year. But Tony May, director of exhibitions at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre, said that no purpose would be served by imposing the event on reluctant participants.

"We have to accept employers' views that the present year is not one in which to raise young people's expectations beyond the level of fulfilment. The message clearly is to continue within education to obtain the advantage of best possible qualifications," he said.

Paul Chubb, president of the Institute of Careers Guidance, said that the recession had made postponement until next year inevitable. "We have a responsibility to young people to present a comprehensive and valuable choice of career opportunities. It has become apparent that employers feel unable to support such an event in sufficient strength and variety to ensure optimum effectiveness of the occasion".

Organisers of other careers exhibitions have also been feeling the recessionary pinch. Tom Jarvis, managing director of Careers 2000, which mounts six careers fairs a year, said that they had continued to prosper but that many exhibitors were offering advice rather than employment at their stands.

"Exhibitors are finding it difficult in this recessionary period. But our exhibitions are looking to the future. When employers do not have jobs to offer, they feel they can take part to offer careers guidance."

Tricia Neill, manager of News International's Directions Week, said that the harsh economic climate had increased the need for good careers advice. "Despite the recession, more than 250 organisations have found the resources to offer long term career and course choice counselling to our graduates and school leavers who will visit Directions Week 92."

Evading shadow budget

Continued from page 1

said yesterday many companies could not become involved in such schemes because of the effect on their cash flow. To which tax advisers have come up with an answer: many of those who received their next year's salary yesterday will lend it back to their employers. The loans will be repaid in monthly instalments, so easing cash-flow problems.

The effects on cash-flow can be further reduced if the employee agrees to take on an overdraft so that the company National Insurance contributions and the Paye tax payment is also returned as a loan. Under this scheme, a £100,000-a-year earner would pay £40,000 in tax and National Insurance, leaving £60,000. Tax advisers say that, even if the employee takes out a £50,400 overdraft and lends back the full amount for repayment in 12 monthly instalments, the cost of the overdraft would still be less than the increased tax.

Punch digests its last laugh

BY ALAN HAMILTON

WHAT was probably the last meeting of an ancient dining club convened yesterday, and became a bit of a wake. *Punch* publishes its last issue next week, and with its demise will go the traditional monthly lunch that has played host to guests as diverse as Mark Twain, Garibaldi, Norman Tebbit, Margaret Thatcher and the Prince of Wales.

Punch lunches began in 1841, the year of the magazine's birth, as a gathering for the staff to discuss the following week's political cartoon. In more recent years, it has expanded to include distinguished guests, many of whom were so well fed and watered that they carved their initials in the old deal table that now resides in the London headquarters of the dying magazine's current proprietor, United Newspapers, whose flagship property is the *Daily Express*.

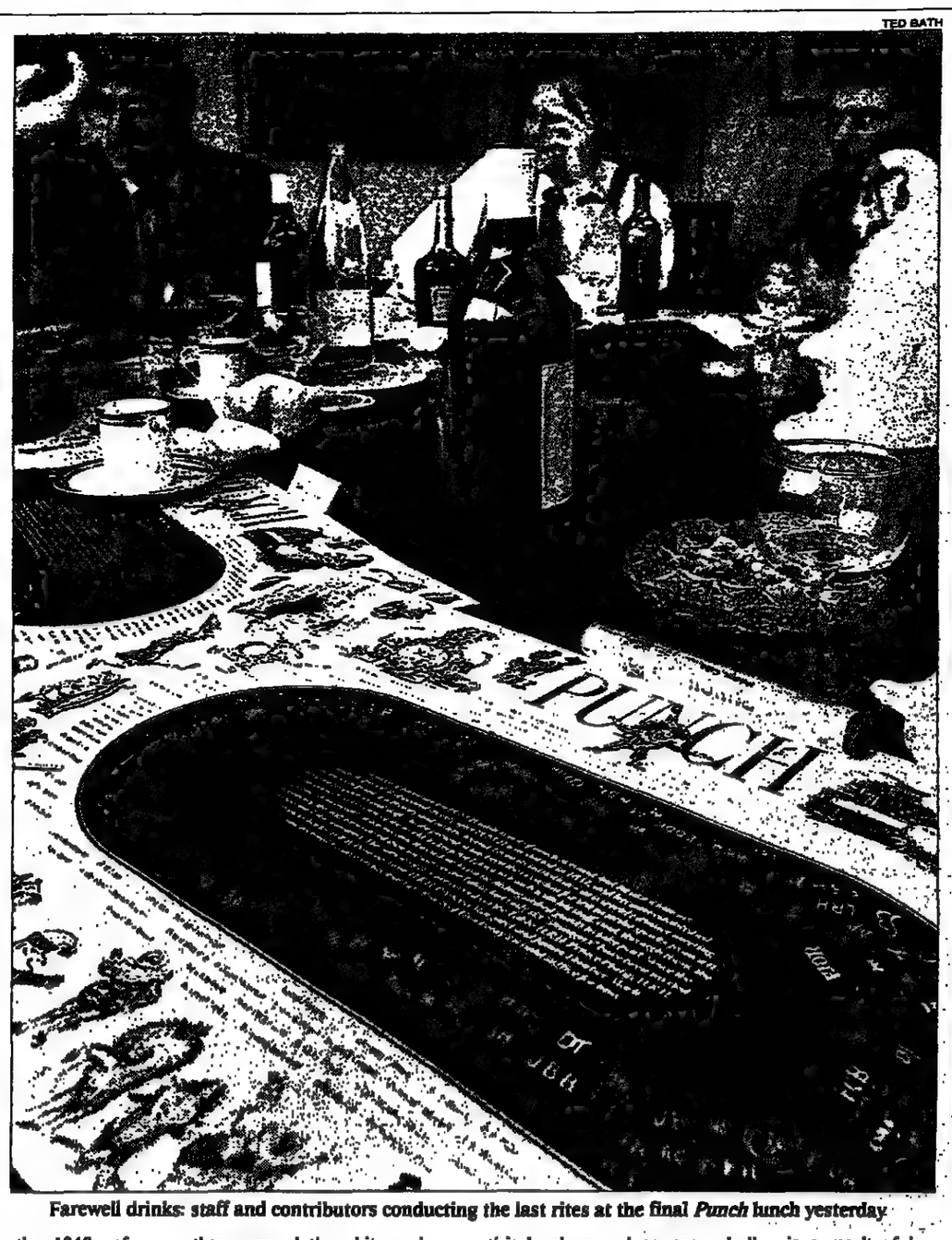
Yesterday's lunch returned to its original format, with only the editorial and commercial, staff, and a handful of regular contributors, present. They included Simon Rose, contributor of the Offy Prosser financial column, Julia Langdon, the political editor, and Richard Littlejohn, author of the combative "Who gives a monkey's?" page. Previous contributors and editors, such as Malcolm Muggeridge, Bernard Hollowood and Alan Coren, somehow managed to edge marginally closer to the staus of household names.

David Thomas, the present editor, said that his seven editorial staff were now on the job market, and had been applying for posts at publications as diverse as *The Tatler* and *The Sun*. They were well qualified, he said, as *Punch* contained elements of both.

Mr Thomas, who has seen the magazine's circulation fall to 33,000 from a peak in the 1940s of more than 170,000, saw nothing humorous in yesterday's farewell feast. It was, he said, an occasion for private grief; he and his staff had been exposed to too much speculative obituary in recent weeks, much of it incorrect. The best cartoonists in Britain, he insisted, still worked for the magazine.

Received wisdom suggests that the magazine's satirical role was long ago usurped by the much sharper and ruder *Private Eye*. An alternative view, recently propounded in the letters column of *The Times*, suggests that the magazine's decline is a result of improved health in the nation's teeth: there are no longer sufficient visitors to dentists' waiting rooms to maintain a viable readership.

TED BATH



Farewell drinks: staff and contributors conducting the last rites at the final *Punch* lunch yesterday

Ashdown veto on Labour tax plans

Continued from page 1

proportional representation were not an attempt to open doors to the Liberal Democrats. However, it was significant that Labour's programme for its first Queen's Speech gave prominence to devolution for Scotland and Wales and a freedom of information act. These two measures are highlighted in the Liberal Democrat manifesto. Mr Ashdown, speaking in Wales yesterday, repeated his party's readiness to vote down a minority Labour government's Queen's Speech unless it contained the promise of legislation on PR.

The prime minister, speaking on a Kent cricket ground, claimed that Labour's talk of proportional representation showed that Mr Kinnock was nervous. "What a show of confidence," he said. "One week before the election they start cuddling up to the Liberal Democrats for support. It is like leaning on candyfloss."

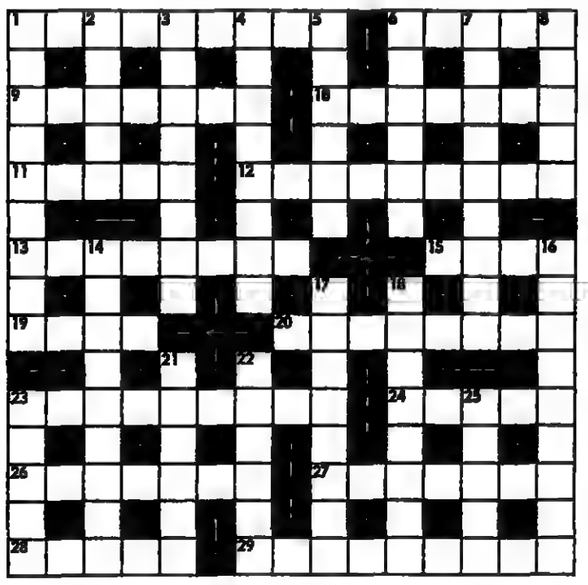
Mr Major has emphatically ruled out any moves towards PR. In a letter to parliamentary candidates last night he said the Liberals and Labour had started to talk of backstairs deals. "They are clearly prepared to abuse our very constitution as a plaything for political ends."

He said at his rally that only Tory policies could successfully build on the foundations in place for economic recovery. "We have got a very clear choice at this general election — between recovery under the Conservatives or perpetual recession leading to slump under the policies the Labour party proposes."

The Tory party political broadcast shown last night called Mr Kinnock a former "leader of the hard left" and ridiculed his policy changes on Europe, disarmament, nationalisation and devolution.

Election 92, pages 9-12
Peter Riddell, page 16
Leading article, page 17
Letters, page 17
Pound falls, page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,884



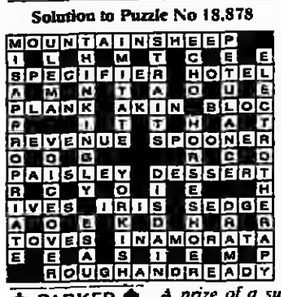
ACROSS

1 It snarls up speech for one struggling to proceed (9).
6 Bill is part of a bird — it's taken for granted (5).
9 Messenger finds a way to interrupt staff (7).
10 Abstained because of fatigue (7).
11 Pull up with a jerk for unexpected obstacle (5).
12 Poet's book and pen (4,5).
13 Poor Antonia, tail-ender in the steeple-chase (8).
15 Stay in period (4).
19 Truly the dawn of romance in "Nineteen Eighty-four" (4).
20 Reserve a holiday — it makes reading easier (8).
23 Car performance chart requires a signature (9).
24 Pound bill — it's remitted in foreign currency (5).
26 Footgear for the lazy (7).
27 To be sick, English boy causes flap on plane (7).
28 It's the annual holidays — see the waves from the ships (5).
29 Fences come to a point in the country (9).

DOWN

1 Rope-worker's song in, for example, Irish hut (3,6)
2 Place to settle and develop roots (5).
3 You see some striking redheads here (8).
4 Belgian vassal (8).
5 Club to abandon evil ways (6).
6 Insect dances round horse (6).
7 For a savoury dish, see note under Game (9).
8 Flower made from cloth (5).
14 It contains breakfast food from the health bar (5-4).
16 Favourite uncle perhaps possesses a bad temper (9).
17 Fairy dance held in linen cupboard (4,4).
18 They are associated with beer and cheese (8).
21 Engineers in, say, a ship have a way to get out (6).
22 Some garlic at supper adds relish (6).
23 A grill, initially on low, is now red (5).
25 Dog caught by several soldiers (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,878



Solution to Puzzle No 18,883

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

WEBSTER
a. A breed of farmyard duck
b. A logophile
c. A weaver

FNESE
a. To breathe heavily, to snore
b. The hyena
c. Having a hooked nose

SATISPASSION
a. Satisfactory suffering
b. The week after Easter
c. Passing from hand to hand

AMNICOLIST
a. Having a good memory
b. Living near a river
c. A market gardener

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE	
C London (within N & S Circs)	731
M-ways/roads M4 M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glocs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Concise crossword is on page 16 of the Life & Times section

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: M J Koker, Lambscote Close, Solihull, W Mids; E Cook, Crawthew Grove, East Dulwich, London; C H Young, Langcomb Road, Shirley, Solihull, W Mids; R F Lambert, Slingsby Walk, Harrogate, N Yorks; I Coe, Priory Crescent, Southend-on-Sea, Essex

WEATHER

Much of Scotland and Northern Ireland will be dry and bright, turning cloudy with rain later although staying dry in more southern parts. Wales and the west of England will be dry and bright but eastern England will be cloudy with showers. Fairly cold and windy over England and Wales but milder in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Outlook: dry and bright in England and Wales; cloudy with some rain in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; f=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; h=hail; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	19	66	f	Malaga	14	57	c
Alex'dria	19	66	s	Malta	18	64	s
Algiers	24	75	s	Mexico C*	23	73	c
Amst'dm	8	46	c	Miami*	26	79	s
Athens	17	63	s	Milan	9	48	f
Bahrain	22	72	s	Montreal*	4	39	f
Barbados*	29	84	s	Moscow	8	46	f
Barcelna	16	61	f	Munich	12	54	f
Beirut	19	66	s	Nairobi	26	79	f
Belgrade	18	64	f	Naples	17	63	f
Bermuda*	23	73	s	N Delhi	29	84	s
Biarritz	17	63	f	N York*	8	46	f
Borde'x	18	64	f	Nice	13	55	c
Brussels	7	45	r	Oslo	1	34	sn
Budapest	14	57	s	Paris	7	45	f
Cairo	25	77	s	Perth	23	73	f
Cape Tn	24	75	s	Prague	10	50	f
Chicago*	2	36	f	Reykjavik	6	43	c
Cologne	10	50	c	Rhodes	17	63	s
C'phagn	10	50	s	Rome	17	63	f
Corfu	17	63	f	Salzburg	13	55	s
Dublin	6	43	c	S F risco*	16	61	c
Faro	18	64	s	S Paulo*	24	75	f
Florence	15	59	f	Sing por	33	91	f
Frankfurt	11	52	c	St Ahlm	11	52	s
Funchal	19	66	f	Strasb'rg	11	52	c
Geneva	10	50	f	Sydney	21	70	r
Gibraltar	16	61	c	Tangier	14	57	r
Helsinki	4	39	r	Tel Aviv	23	73	s
Innsbrck	13	55	f	Tenerife	21	70	s
Istanbul	14	57	s	Tokyo	20	68	s
Jo burg*	27	81	s	Toronto*	-1	30	sn
L Palmas	22	72	s	Tunis	26	79	s
Lisbon	15	59	f	Valencia	19	66	f
Locarno	8	46	f	Vanc ver*	17	63	s
London	7	45	c	Venice	13	55	f
L Angels*	21	70	s	Vienna	15	59	f
Luxembg	9	48	f	Warsaw	10	50	s
Luxor	32	90	s	Wash'ton*	6	43	f
Madrid	11	52	r	Wel'nton	8	46	c
Majorca	18	64	s	Zurich	6	43	r

* denotes figures are latest available

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.1	0.01	6	43	snow
Anglesey	-	0.02	6	43	cloudy
Aviemore	1.1	0.07	4	39	snow
Belfast	0.8	0.19	7	45	snow
Birmingham	0.9	0.08	5	41	rain
Bognor Regis	2.8	0.16	9	48	cloudy
Bournemouth	1.4	0.17	9	48	bright
Bristol	1.1	0.02	8	46	cloudy
Buxton	0.5	0.01	3	37	dull
Cardiff	3.4	-	9	48	sunny
Clacton	2.0	0.11	8	46	shower
Colwyn Bay	-	0.02	5	41	cloudy
Cromer	9.9	-	9	48	sunny
Douglas	-	0.30	6	43	shower
Eastbourne	1.4	0.04	10	50	cloudy
Edinburgh	-	0.01	5	41	shower
Exmouth	5.3	0.23	8	46	bright
Falmouth	5.4	-	11	52	sunny
Folkestone	0.2	-	8	46	cloudy
Glasgow	0.4	-	7	45	cloudy
Hastings	0.9	0.02	9	48	drizzle
Hunstanton	6.6	-	8	46	bright
Jersey	6.5	0.16	11	52	sunny
Kinloss	0.3	0.02	6	43	hail
Leeds	-	0.07	4	39	rain
Lerwick	1.9	0.01	5	41	hail
Littlehampton	3.3	0.24	9	48	bright
London	2.3	-	10	50	cloudy
Lowestoft	4.6	-	9	48	sunny
Manchester	0.2	-	6	43	cloudy
Minehead	3.6	-	9	48	bright
Newcastle	-	1.41	5	41	rain
Newquay	2.6	0.02	8	46	bright
Nottingham	0.5	0.03	4	39	rain
Penzance	6.5	0.19	11	52	sunny
Plymouth	6.5	0.02	11	52	sunny
Poole	0.7	0.23	9	48	cloudy
Salcombe	3.2	0.08	10	50	bright
Sandown	0.9	0.65	8	46	cloudy
Saunton Snd	5.5	-	9	48	bright
Scilly Isles	7.6	0.02	11	52	sunny
Shanklin	0.7	0.14	8	46	shower
Southend	0.8	0.19	8	46	rain
Southsea	1.1	0.39	9	48	rain
Swanage	1.7	0.12	9	48	bright
Teignmouth	4.2	0.26	10	50	sunny
Tenby	6.9	-	9	48	sunny
Tiree	5.3	-	7	45	sunny
Torquay	6.2	0.23	10	50	sunny
Wick	0.7	0.02	6	43	snow
Worthing	1.9	0.26	9	48	shower

Thursday's figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.32	2.16
Austria Sch	21.10	19.60
Belgium Fr	61.50	57.50
Canada $	2.175	2.015
Denmark Kr	11.59	10.84
Finland Mkk	8.21	7.71
France Fr	10.11	9.41
Germany Dm	2.965	2.785
Greece Dr	347	322
Hong Kong $	13.95	12.95
Ireland Pt	1.12	1.05
Italy Lira	2225	2110
Japan Yen	249.50	230.50
Netherlands Gld	3.355	3.135
Norway Kr	11.78	10.98
Portugal Esc	256.75	238.75
South Africa Rd	5.54	4.85
Spain Pta	187.50	174.50
Sweden Kr	10.34	10.14
Switzerland Fr	2.72	2.54
Turkey Lira	11,100	10,100
USA $	1.815	1.692
Yugoslavia Dnr	DNS	DNS

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

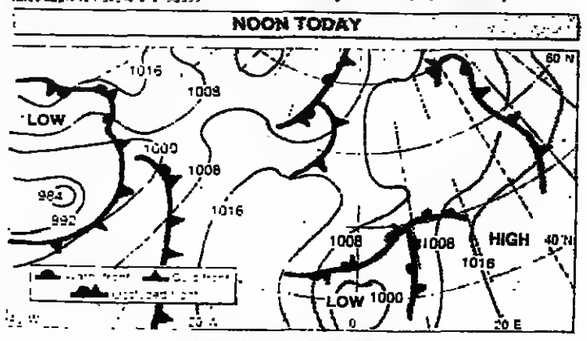
Thursday. Highest day temp Ventnor, Isle of Wight 12C (54F). Lowest day max Warcop Cumbria 3C (37F). Highest rainfall, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1.41in. Highest sunshine Cromer, Norfolk, 9.9hr.

YESTERDAY

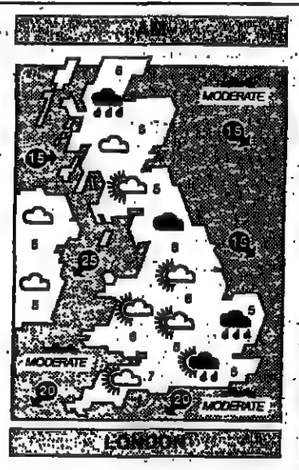
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun

		C	F			C	F	
Belfast	r	7	45	c	Guernsey	r	7	45	c
B'mngham	r	7	45	c	Inverness	s	6	43	c
Blackpool	r	7	45	f	Jersey	s	9	48	s
Bristol	r	7	45	c	London	r	7	45	c
Cardiff	s	9	48	c	M'nchster	r	7	45	c
Edinburgh	r	7	45	c	Newcastle	s	5	41	r
Glasgow	r	7	45	c	R'nldsway	r	7	45	f

NOON TODAY

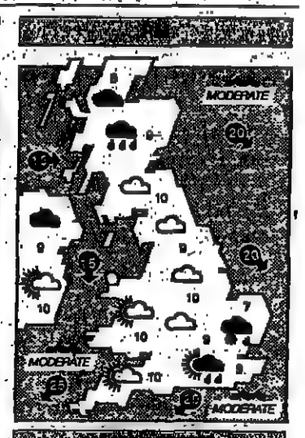


Information supplied by Met Office



LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 9C (48F); min 6pm to 6am, 4C (39F). Humidity: 6pm, 56 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.5hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 1008.6 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.



Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 9C (48F); min 6pm to 6am, 2C (36F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.02in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 2.2hr.

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 9C (48F); min 6pm to 6am, 1C (34F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 2.1hr.

TODAY — Sun rises: 6.23 am — Sun sets: 7.39 pm — Moon rises: 8.26 am — Moon sets: 9.44 pm — First quarter April 10

TOMORROW — Sun rises: 6.27 am — Sun sets: 7.41 pm — Moon rises: 9.5 — Moon sets:

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THE TIMES
BUSINESS

SATURDAY APRIL 4 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

MONEY

Profile

Gerald Ronson remains a rough and often abrasive tycoon of the old school, despite attempts by Gail, his wife, to overlay this with a patina of sophistication. The support of Gail has sustained him through the Guinness affair, his sojourn in Ford open prison and now the troubles at Heron International ..... Page 23

Survival guide

Investors should not be panicked into selling everything if there is a Labour victory in next week's general election but those who will pay more tax should use their tax breaks ..... Page 25

Share service

The Times is launching a low-cost share selling service for privatisation stocks in association with Hambros. Details and the application form for The Times Portfolio Dealing Service ..... Page 26

Letters ..... Page 28

Auction lines

A guide to government auctions, which promises great bargains for those bidding for items that have been seized from taxpayers who have not paid their bills or from bankrupt companies, is not telling its readers anything that is not already public knowledge, government departments say. Alan Davies, whose company auctions items on behalf of the Metropolitan Police, says that some of the examples in the handbook are misleading ..... Page 27

Big brother

Information on 50 million savers will start being passed to the Inland Revenue. For the first time, the interest earned on all savings and current account will be sent to the Revenue ..... Page 27

True value

The building societies ombudsman can now investigate cases involving valuations of properties by staff surveyors. The societies will not appeal against the High Court ruling ..... Page 26

No surrender

Surrendering a life assurance policy is not always the best option and policyholders will get roughly double the value if they pay it up and benefit from the terminal bonus ..... Page 26

Election worries take toll on pound

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

THE pound was worst-hit of the leading currencies by the advancing mark, as concern about next week's general election continued to undermine market sentiment for sterling.

At the official London close at 4 pm, the pound stood at DM2.8386, almost a pfennig down from Thursday. But it was up over a cent at $1.7420, as the American currency retreated. Sterling's trade-weighted index was up 0.1 at 90.

Concern about the election outcome pushed shares prices down further. The FT-SE 100 closed at 2,382.7, down 22.7, slightly above its worst. The key three-month interbank rate was steady at 11 per cent, still anticipating a half point rise in base rates after the election.

A surprise announcement that Portugal will join the European exchange-rate mechanism on Monday prompted Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to reaffirm Britain's commitment to the present central rate for the pound, despite the entry of the escudo to the parity grid.

The dollar fell against the mark, depressed by the release of disappointing American data. The rise of 19,000 in American non-farm payrolls in March suggested the economy might not be recovering as strongly as other indicators show.

Dealers see no sign of serious sterling difficulties. Paul Chertkow, chief currency analyst at Citicorp, said that he expected sterling to ease further towards DM2.83 by the eve of the election.

THE POUND

US dollar
1 7420 (+0.0118)
German mark
2.8386 (–0.0097)
Exchange index
90.0 (+0.1)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1851.4 (–15.2)
FT-SE 100
2382.7 (–22.7)
New York Dow Jones
3211.54 (–22.58)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
18559.71 (+273.68)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10½%
3-month Interbank 11⅛-11%
3-month eligible bills 10 11/16-10 9/16%
US: Prime Rate 6½%
Federal Funds 4%*
3-month-Treasury Bills 3.96-3.94%*
30-year bonds 101 7/16-101 15/32*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.7420	£: $1.7435*
£: DM2.8309	$: DM1.6256*
£: SwFr2.5991	$: SwFr1.4900*
£: FFr9.6159	$: FFr5.5105*
£: Yen232.12	$: Yen133.28*
£: Index 90.0	$: Index 64.7
ECU £0.717646	SDR £0.791246
£ ECU1.393444	£ SDR1.263825

London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $340.25 pm $340.60
close $340.85-341.35 (£195.50-196.00)
New York:
Comex $340.95-341.45*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) ... $18.55 bbl ($18.35)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 136.3 February (1987=100)

* Denotes midday trading price

1X

Ronson pleads with banks for more time to repay his company's debts

Heron pledge to sell £1 bn in property assets

BY MARTIN WALLER

GERALD Ronson's Heron International, one of Britain's biggest property groups, is to sell its entire investment portfolio, with a value of £1 billion, between now and the end of the decade. Mr Ronson has made that pledge to bankers whom he is asking to support a financial restructuring.

Heron met the banks yesterday to present its plans for a financial rescue, after property revaluations left it in apparent breach of banking covenants.

Mr Ronson is asking the banks, and the holders of bonds worth £450 million, to give the group more time to repay its debts. Heron as a whole has £1.3 billion of borrowings, including the bonds, but £325 million is owed by Heron Corporation, the British arm, which is not in breach of covenants. These debts are not involved in the restructuring.

Heron has written £300 million off the value of its investment property portfolio. Preliminary estimates indicate that the group's net worth has slumped in the past year from £585 million to just over £100 million.

Accounts for Heron International, a private company, for the year to March 31 will show that the group about broke even at the trading level but that interest payments left a pre-tax loss of around £100 million. The previous year, Heron's pre-tax profits slumped to £2 million after £65 million of interest payments.

The group has written off £450 million in the latest financial year, including a £130 million fall on the value of American properties. That brings the total written off in the American property market to £400 million over the past four years.

Mr Ronson, who was sentenced to a year's jail and fined £5 million for his role in the Guinness affair, is keen to avoid being viewed in the same light as other high-profile entrepreneurs who have come to grief. He has assembled a rescue team headed by Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm, to draw up the plans for the refinancing before the group is technically in breach of its covenants. Price Waterhouse has indicated that there are no "black holes" in the group's finances and the review provides a sound basis for progress.

There was no formal reaction from the banks last night other than the formation of a steering committee to oversee the restructuring. Joining the three lead lenders — Barclays, the National Westminster and the Bank of America — are Manufacturers Hanover, now part of Chemical Bank, and Royal Bank of Canada.

A Barclays spokeswoman said the meeting was comprehensive and detailed and the banks would now consider their response. Initial soundings indicated that they thought the meeting had been helpful.

Heron says no property sales will take place this financial year, given the state of the market. They will be made over the next seven. The group has a wide-ranging portfolio in Britain, including London's Victoria Place shopping centre, but it has eschewed the City and Docklands.

Property worth about £300 million is in America and the rest is split roughly equally between Britain and mainland Europe. "Heron has no intention of selling its properties under 'fire sale' conditions," a statement emphasised.

No firm details are being given, but Heron wants maturity dates on some bank and bond debt to be extended. All such debt will be divided into A and B categories. Interest on A debt will be fully serviced and the borrowings repaid out of cash flow and the proceeds of the property sales. B debt will have interest rolled up; only when A debt is repaid will B debt holders see their money again.

The proportions of A and B debt the banks receive will be the subject of negotiations with individual banks. Bondholders would receive 60 per cent A bonds and 40 per cent B bonds, both tradeable instruments, but they could prove tougher than the bankers.

Mr Ronson commented: "We have put forward in our proposals a solution which, with the support of our banks and bondholders, can result in a successful outcome for everyone."

Business profile, page 23

Under pressure: Gerald Ronson outside Heron's London headquarters

Caution advised on Lloyd's action

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

LLOYD'S members' agents have been advised to take "a cautious approach" to drawing down the deposits of loss-making Gooda Walker names because of court evidence that Gooda Walker syndicate 290 "may be tainted".

Elborne Mitchell, the City solicitor acting for the 80 members' agents with names on syndicate 290, sent the advice to the agents after an affidavit lodged with the Commercial Court on Wednesday suggested there may have been irregularities in some of the transactions of the syndicates.

The irregularities came to light during an investigation of the Gooda Walker syndicates on behalf of GW Run-Off, appointed to manage the winding-up of the syndicates. They indicate that the profits of syndicate 290 may have been improperly overstated.

Members of syndicate 290 are among 820 names who have made an application in the Commercial Court for an injunction against drawdowns of their deposits to pay for huge losses.

According to the Elborne Mitchell letter, the evidence contained in the affidavit, "has, in our opinion, for the first time given the names an arguable case in respect of Gooda Walker". The firm advises that names on other syndicates are "unlikely to obtain an injunction" but admits that "without doubt the further evidence, the timing and the manner of its disclosure has been damaging".

Lloyd's said on Wednesday that the evidence contained in the affidavit would not hold up the drawdown procedure.

Former Maxwell executive is ordered to pay £7m

BY OUR CITY STAFF

A FORMER Maxwell executive was ordered in the High Court to pay £7 million to the administrators of three of the late Robert Maxwell's private companies.

Mr Justice Hoffmann granted a declaration that Sheldon Aboff is liable to account for £6.6 million received from the three companies between June and November last year, plus interest.

Arthur Andersen, the administrator, alleged that the American businessman had taken part in a share support operation for the Maxwell public companies. Mr Aboff was not in court, or represented, yesterday.

Mark Phillips, counsel for Arthur Andersen, administrator of London & Bishopsgate Group, Robert Maxwell Group and Bishopsgate Investment Trust, told the court that Mr Aboff, who was chief executive of Thomas Cook USA and senior vice-president of the *Daily News* in New York, had received seven payments from the companies that were used to buy shares in Maxwell Communications Corporation or Mirror Group Newspapers.

In each case, the transaction was carried out on the directions of either Robert Maxwell or Kevin, his son, in breach of their duties as directors, he claimed.

It was alleged that Mr Aboff, a close associate of the Maxwells, knew the transactions were part of a share support scheme, or had been done in breach of the Maxwells' duties as directors.

"There was no basis on which Mr Aboff could have concluded that he was entitled to such substantial payments from any of these companies," counsel said.

The judge also ordered an enquiry into what had happened to the shares and any profit that might have been made from them.

A spokeswoman for the Serious Fraud Office declined to say if the SFO was investigating the alleged payments to Mr Aboff.

She said: "We are continuing a five-pronged investigation and we are in contact with all the parties involved."

In New York, Mr Aboff's lawyer said that he was not aware of the High Court ruling.

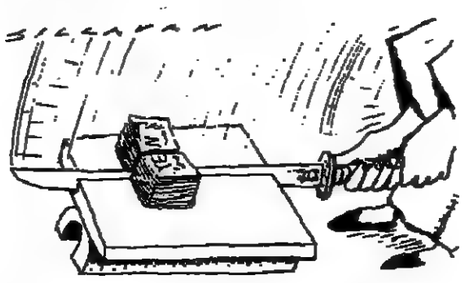
Tokyo bosses tighten their belts

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

LEE Iacocca would not like to be reminded, but when times get tough in Japan the Japanese tighten their belts. And the chairman is expected to set the example.

Two of the Japanese behemoths of the world electronics industry announced yesterday that, due to falling profit expectations, their top executives will take a pay cut to demonstrate just how serious they consider Japan's economic slowdown.

The chairman, vice-chairman and president of Fujitsu, which has suffered falling demand in its central computer and semiconductor businesses, will receive 35 per cent less salary this year. Almost 20 other senior executives have agreed to accept 15-25 per cent pay cuts and 4,700 Fujitsu managers have had their increases delayed. Toshiba has announced similar cuts.



Fujitsu recently revised its profit forecast for fiscal 1991 down to Y60 billion (£260 million) from Y100 billion. Japan's once apparently invincible corporations have all been rewriting profit forecasts, or in some cases, losses, amid a daily barrage of gruesome economic statistics. Profits are expected to fall at least 10 per cent.

Their work ethic of collective responsibility is in stark contrast with that of America where executives continue to pay themselves huge salaries whatever the performance of their companies. While Chrysler was losing billions of dollars worth of business in 1991, Mr Iacocca, its former chairman, paid himself $4.65 million and received $718,000 worth of Chrysler shares.

In Japan, managers whose companies are doing badly resign. And they have a very different idea about what senior executives should be paid. The American model, whereby chairmen receive 160 times the pay of an average worker, is judged to be unfair and socially divisive. Japan's chief executives earn $300,000-$400,000 a year and pay a top income tax rate of 65 per cent. The present gloom, which has prompted many businessmen to label the expected 3.5 per cent economic growth "a recession", will result in lower bonuses for all workers.

Li Ka-shing opens talks on buying O&Y assets

FROM LULU YU IN HONG KONG

LI KA-SHING, Hong Kong's wealthiest businessman, is interested in buying some assets from Olympia & York, the troubled Canadian property company.

Mr Li, who is the chief of the Hutchison Whampoa group with interests in property, hotels, telecommunications, energy and container terminals, disclosed that he was interested in making acquisitions from the Reichmann family, which owns Olympia & York.

He would not say what assets he was looking at, but admitted he was in discussion with the Reichmanns. He added: "I don't know what we will buy or what company we will use to make the purchase. But we are interested."

His son, Victor, who looks after his property investments in Canada, is understood to be talking to the sellers.

Speculation is rife that the tycoon will expand his investments in Canada by acquiring Olympia & York's 74 per cent stake in Gulf Canada Resources.

The oil exploration company could complement Mr Li's investment in Husky Oil, another Canadian petrol operator in which Mr Li's family and companies have a combined 95 per cent stake.

But some analysts believe Mr Li might be more interested in Olympia & York's commercial properties in America.

Last October, Mr Li bought a 49 per cent stake in a 39-storey office building in New York's financial district from the Reichmanns.

Olympia & York has delayed for a week, from April 6 to 13, its planned meeting with its bankers. It has promised to produce financial proposals at the meeting.

It is thought that Mr Li might be reluctant to put more money into the troubled oil industry in North America.

His flagship company, the Hutchison group, last year wrote down HK$763 million (£56.6 million) for its 45 per cent stake in Husky because of severe losses arising from falling oil and gas prices. Further provisions are expected to be made for this year.

Mr Li is to step down from the board of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp and its parent, HSBC Holdings, next month.

The move paves the way for Mr Li to make acquisitions from Olympia & York because it removes any conflict of interest that arises from the fact that Hongkong Bank is a leading lender to the Canadian firm, with a well secured exposure of around US$700 million.

Mr Li, aged 64, has been a non-executive director since 1980 and non-executive managing director since 1985.

Write-off shrinks Invesco profits

BY JONATHAN PEYNN

INVESCO MIM, the fund management group headed by Lord Stevens, has written off more than half its 16 per cent stake in the troubled Drayton Consolidated investment trust.

Drayton Consolidated is managed by Invesco and specialises in investment in small, unquoted companies, a sector that has been hard hit by the recession. It admitted in February that it had lost £20 million on an investment in Alma Holdings, a Scottish sweet-maker now in receivership. Some institutional shareholders in Drayton have since called for the removal of Invesco as managers. A review of Drayton's assets and reconstruction proposals is being drawn up by Cazenove and County NatWest.

The £13 million writedown on the Drayton stake has been recorded as part of a £16.6 million exceptional item. Previously, Invesco took profits on investments below the line, as extraordinary items. The rest of the provision relates to loans to the trustees of the company's employee share options trust.

The exceptional provisions resulted in a 23 per cent fall in pre-tax profits for the year to December 31, to £14.5 million from £19 million. The writedowns mean that Invesco has had to pay £8.3 million from reserves to hold the dividend for the year at 6p. The final payout was maintained at 3.7p.

Profits before exceptional items were up from £22.4 million to £31.1 million. Profits in North America increased from £18.3 million to £26.9 million. Ratan Engineer, finance director, said the American operations had benefited from the booming mutual funds market. Funds under management in America now account for 60 per cent of the group total of £31 billion. Group turnover rose from £1.74 to £2.8 billion.

Profits from European and Pacific investment management climbed 27 per cent, from £8.1 million to £10.3 million, reflecting cost savings in the UK, expansion of continental European operations and entry into the investment trust market in Japan.

Wheel deal: Anne Evans, managing director of Elm Energy and Recycling (UK), at the ground-breaking ceremony for Britain's first power plant to be fuelled by old tyres. The plant, at Ettingshall, near Wolverhampton, is being developed at a cost of £49 million and will generate electricity from next year, consuming 8 million tyres a year.

Bérégovoy prepares to lose financial virtue

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

PIERRE Bérégovoy, the new French prime minister, evidently has a sense of irony. As finance and economics minister, he has chosen Michel Sapin, a lawyer, aged 39, whose main contribution to the world of finance has been a collection of antique coins. With the single currency less than five years away, M Sapin might soon be able to add the French franc to his collection.

The appointment of M Sapin, a distinguished junior justice minister in the previous government, suggests that the brain behind French economics policy is still the old one: M Bérégovoy himself, arguably the best finance minister France has ever had.

The apparent continuity does not necessarily imply that French economic policy will remain the same. When John Major became prime minister, Britain abandoned the balanced budget concept. In 1963, when the legendary Ludwig Erhard became German chancellor, the country's economic policy faltered and his chancellorship ended in recession. M Bérégovoy might turn out be another Erhard. He is a brilliant finance minster, whose end-of-career promotion does little other than to accelerate the downfall of his government.

Sapin: antique coins

In his first speech as prime minister, he has indicated that he might be prepared to abandon the tough fiscal policy he has previously fought tooth and nail to sustain. Prime ministers have different agendas. M Bérégovoy is the fifth socialist prime minister in the fifth republic, who has taken over at a time when his party has been in power for 12 years. Now the party is in trouble, its popularity at rock bottom: the economy is weak and unemployment is close to 10 per cent. M Bérégovoy, the prime minister, promises an expansionary policy to reduce unemployment — something which, as finance minister, he would have described as imprudent. The uncertainty displayed by France's financial markets yesterday suggests that all is not well.

The implications are interesting for the rest of Europe, and especially for the Maastricht agreement to limit public borrowing to 3 per cent of gross domestic product. France is at present Europe's most solid economy, with inflation of less than 3 per cent and public borrowing well below British and German levels. Britain and Germany have increased borrowings for different reasons; France, the last of the big countries to keep the European average down, is now following in the same direction.

For the next British government, this is good news. It means borrowing can rise substantially and still remain below the European average. The Italians could join the single currency. The 3 per cent agreed at Maastricht could be amended to, say, 5 per cent. And everybody, except for the dying breed of monetarists, will be happy.

New cabinet, page 15

Gloom at Atlas hits the shares

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARES in Atlas Converting Equipment, which makes machinery to slit rolls of specialist plastics and paper, dived 203p to 580p after the company accompanied higher full-year profits with a gloomy trading statement.

The news took the City by surprise as Atlas had said, at the interim stage, that it anticipated sales growth for 1992. But the USM-quoted company now says that the last six months have seen a slowdown in the order intake and enquiry level in all of its markets.

This was particularly so for larger Atlas machines and vacuum metallisers, where the machines in question tend to be built specifically to customers' orders. Atlas said that increases in capacity will enable the company to shorten the time between orders and delivery, but the current order book indicates that the group will be manufacturing at a reduced level during the second half of 1992.

The statement accompanied a 21.1 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £6.67 million in the year to end-December, on turnover ahead 26.7 per cent to £48.5 million. Final dividend is raised to 14p (13p) giving an increased 21p (19.5p) total.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Steetley spent £8.9m on its bid defence

STEETLEY, the building materials group, spent £8.9 million on its unsuccessful defence against the bid from Redland, its last profit figures as an independent group show. It also spent £1.1 million attempting to set up a joint venture with Tarmac. The venture was referred to the monopolies commission, leaving Steetley vulnerable to the bid from Redland.

Steetley ran up £17 million in extraordinary items in the year to December, with £7 million, net of tax, to cover withdrawing from its bulk magnesia refractories. Pre-tax profits slumped from £85.2 million to £34.1 million. Shareholders who took Redland shares in the bid will receive the Redland final dividend of 16.75p, equal to 14.75p for each Steetley share formerly held. The 9p final dividend from Steetley, indicated during the bid, is under review.

Funds generated from operations were £56 million and internal capital expenditure for the year totalled £31 million. Net borrowings at the year end were £222 million, resulting in a gearing level of 67 per cent.

Isosceles director

ISOSCELES, the highly leveraged group that owns the Gateway supermarket chain, has appointed Bob Nellist as finance director. Mr Nellist was finance director of Thorn EMI for five years. He oversaw the reverse takeover of Bioplan, where he was chairman, by Hospital Corporation International of America. Mr Nellist was confirmed as the chairman of the combined group at the time of the reverse takeover in January. He left in February and will become a full-time executive director of Isosceles immediately.

Liffe trade hits peak

UNCERTAINTY over the election caused big companies and investors to hedge their positions in record trading on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) last month. Some 5.82 million future and options contracts were traded in March, 510,000 up on the previous record month of January — representing daily turnover of £63 billion.

In the first quarter Liffe traded a peak 15.5 million contracts, 55 per cent up of the same period last year.

Japanese car curb likely

JAPAN'S Ministry of International Trade and Industry is likely to agree to keep Japan's vehicle exports to the European Community this year to 1.24 million or less, industry sources said. The EC is forecasting poor demand for cars in 1992, but in February the two were unable to agree on the forecast of EC vehicle demand for this year. Japan wanted to keep the 1991 level of 1.264 million. Under an agreement reached last year, Japan will keep its direct exports at 1.23 million vehicles a year from 1993 to 1999.

Usher lifts its final

USHER-WALKER, the printing inks group, is raising its dividend despite an 85 per cent fall in full-year taxable profits, largely due to non-recurring exceptional costs. An increased 4p final (3.75p) makes 6p (5.5p). Usher gave warning in January that poor fourth-quarter trading and exceptional restructuring costs would have "a significant effect". An exceptional charge of £332,000, relating to stock write-offs and reorganisations aimed at lowering the cost base, pushed pre-tax profits down to £60,000, against £400,000.

Hartstone debt moves

HARTSTONE, the hosiery and leather goods group that has grown by acquisition since a management buy-in in 1989, is reorganising its medium-term debt, saving £870,000 in interest payments this year. The group announced the private placement of $50 million of its medium-term debt by Chemical Bank with three leading American institutions. The proceeds will be used to repay its sterling debt and provide a hedge for its American assets. The gearing ratio is around 50 per cent and the interest cover nearly eight times.

CMW Group buys

CMW Group, the architect, is making two acquisitions for a maximum £850,000. The USM-quoted company is buying Yakeley Associates Architects, a Cambridge architect, for up to £600,000, with an initial £396,000 in shares and a vendor placing to raise £198,000. CMW is also buying Stanley Brown Associates, a property development consultancy, for up to £250,000, with £40,000 of the initial £160,000 payment via a vendor placing. The combined warranted annualised pre-tax profits for the two companies are £140,000.

Brabant writedown

BRABANT Resources, the oil and gas company, incurred net losses of £4.92 million in 1991 after writing down the value of unproved exploration assets by £4.71 million. Net income in 1990 was £364,000. Cash flow from producing operations rose from £683,000 to £984,000. Net assets are reduced from £25.35 million to £20.44 million since the writedown. Cash balances at year-end were £5.14 million. Losses were 29.6p a share (5.1p earnings) and there is again no dividend. The shares fell 4p to 34p.

Johnston Group blow

JOHNSTON Group, the contracting and construction materials concern, has made a £4.34 million exceptional charge against 1991 profits to reflect lower development property values. The provision leaves Johnston Group with a £1.09 million pre-tax loss for the year to end-December (£5.86 million profit). The final dividend is cut from 8.5p to 4.5p a share, making 9p (13p). Net asset value at year end was 386p (410.66p). The shares traded 1p lower at 194p.

Dalgety appoints a new chairman

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

DALGETY, the Golden Wonder group, has had a boardroom shuffle ahead of the retirement of Maurice Warren, its chief executive, which is due next year. Mr Warren will stay on until a replacement is found.

The new chairman will be John West, a non-executive director of Dalgety since June 1990. Mr West, aged 64, who is currently chief executive of Bridon and Christian Salvesen, will replace Sir Peter Carey, aged 69, who retires on September 1.

Also retiring from the board in June are Bryan Fawcett, an executive director responsible for the group's agribusiness, and Sir Christopher Laidlaw, a non-executive director.

Richard Clothier, aged 46, chief executive of Dalgety's pig improvement company, and Paul Kirk, aged 45, chief executive of Dalgety Agriculture, will join the board as executive directors with immediate effect. Mr Clothier will also have executive responsibility for food ingredients.

Ted Humphreys, who was previously responsible for food ingredients, milling and baking, will assume responsibility for European strategy and development.

West: on the move

Tough budget in Poland

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

THE Polish government yesterday presented to parliament a tough budget bill that is supposed to win back international credibility and drag the country out of recession. But the promised spending cuts are sure to trigger social unrest and further erode the shakey foundations of prime minister Jan Olszewski's government.

Mr Olszewski worried international lending organisations in March when he presented an economic programme that suggested he was ready to spend his way out of Poland's very deep recession. But the budget presented yesterday is certainly not a free spending charter, and providing the budget deficit is kept below 5 per cent of growth domestic product, it has the backing of the International Monetary Fund.

Poland lost much of its tax income when thousands of state-run factories plunged into the red because of the recession. Meanwhile, social welfare spending soared to pay for over 2 million unemployed.

The present budget tries to save some money for the state by ending the automatic indexation of public sector salaries, abolishing some disability pensions, obliging teachers to work 25 per cent longer weeks, scrapping cheap rail and bus fares, and tightening up dole payments. It also attempts to increase revenue by, for example, charging fees for some medical services. The prices of coal, electricity, water and council house rents are set to increase steeply. Petrol tax will go up from 50 per cent to 70 per cent, which is the European average.

The budget, to be debated in parliament for the next four weeks, is thus profoundly unpopular. Average income in the state sector is still around £120 a month. Yet prices are almost equivalent to those in the West. A three-bedroomed house in central Warsaw can now cost some £150,000 — London prices in a country that still has no mortgage system.

The cuts, though deemed necessary by the finance ministry, are likely to add to popular disillusion with market reform. Some measures will banish any impression that Mr Olszewski's government is concerned with caring and welfare. Over 2.5 million of the country's 38 million people received disability pensions, said Andrzej Olechowski, finance minister. "If you take this as an indicator, we have the highest number of handicapped people in Europe."

There was thus a need for much more rigorous assessment of disability and other social security payments.

For all the belt-tightening contained in the budget, many economic experts were sceptical yesterday that the government would be able to keep to its promise to restrain the budget deficit.

Scottish Television prepares to fulfil a 30-year-old prophecy

SHARES in Scottish Television have not looked back since the news leaked out that the company had audaciously bid less than £1 million to retain its franchise. That was in July, when the shares rocketed from a low of 345p. It later turned out that the company had bid a lot less than £1 million — just £2,000, to be exact. The company, described in the Sixties as a "licence to print money" by its then owner, Roy Thomson, could become just that in the Nineties.

STV is ideally placed to steal a competitive march on its ITV competitors. By freeing resources for programme making and buying when less fortunate contractors are trying to conserve funds to meet franchise bid commitments, STV has locked itself into a virtuous cash-generating circle. The market marked STV shares up another 35p to 745p on yesterday's results announcement.

The figures were at the top end of market expectations, with pre-tax profits down from £11.2 million to £8.6 million. Advertising sales held up well at £88.2 million, down only 1 per cent, compared with a market fall of 2 per cent. STV's market share climbed slightly to 5.6 per cent. A £2.4 million exceptional item related to staff reduction and reorganisation costs, and the £4 million spent preparing the franchise bid, appeared as an extraordinary item. Net cash fell from £22 million to £19 million. The final dividend of 13.125p (11.5p) makes 16p (14.375p) for the year.

This being a Scottish company, there are a few clouds on the horizon. Some analysts believe STV is more vulnerable than most to competition from Channel 4 when it begins selling its own advertising space in 1993. Neil Blackley, at James Capel, has knocked £4 million off his 1993 forecast because of this.

STV says it is confident it can resist the Channel 4 threat. Given the adroitness with which the management team, headed by Gus Macdonald, managing director, handled the franchise bid, it is tempting to give the company the benefit of the doubt. Nevertheless, the shares have enjoyed an exceptionally strong run, and are rated at almost 20 times forecast earnings for 1992. In the long term, STV looks a winner, but at present the shares are probably too expensive to buy.

TEMPUS

Grampian

GRAMPIAN Holdings is passing its Mitre soccer ball company to America's Genesco for a useful £17 million cash, which will help clip gearing from 45 to 25 per cent.

Grampian, meanwhile, continues to demonstrate that pharmaceutical interests hold its best attention, and though it failed to buy Macarthy last year, the £7.5 million acquisition last month of Peter Hand Animal Health gives it equally promising opportunities.

Grampian's pre-tax profits for the year ended December — £11.2 million against £13.1 million — mask a reasonable first nine months but a final quarter when conditions deteriorated markedly. Trading has continued weak in traditionally seasonal operations in the first quarter of this year, but might improve in the second quarter.

Retail felt the cold winds of lower tourism in 1991, while the transport division reported lower margins because of fuel price increases. Difficulties were compounded by customers' own tight cash positions.

Overall, Grampian was obliged to increase bad and doubtful debt provisions, notably in the sporting division where profits fell 29.8 per cent to £2.03 million.

Pharmaceuticals now account for 53 per cent (41 per cent) of group profits, and if goodbye is said to retail operations, the contribution will go even higher.

Bill Hughes, Grampian's chairman and chief executive, says there are plans for at least 26 new product submissions this year, and that the group is top in the £200 million-a-year animal pharmaceuticals market.

Vaccines for cats and dogs did particularly well, and instead of dog collars to catch "flees and beasties", Grampian is planning a "one spot" application to tackle dogs' itching problems. Even sheep are being dipped in a more friendly and acceptable fashion.

Reduced gearing will help, though a real kick in general economic conditions is needed to lift pre-tax profits that much, higher. But £13 million is possible, to put the shares at 164p, on 11.7 times prospective earnings.

There is no need to rush until the conglomerate tag is dusted off and a pharmaceuticals tag assumed.

A different ball-game: Bill Hughes of Grampian

BUSINESS PROFILE: Gerald Ronson

The fatal flaw — a love of making deals

Martin Waller assesses the life of Gerald Ronson, brought down by a deal that was pocket money to him

To the cynical observer, Gerald Ronson's involvement in the Guinness affair was the clearest proof yet of the old dictum that it is impossible to be too rich or too thin. One of Britain's wealthiest men, who had built up his business empire with virtually no recourse to the stock market, was tempted into a shabby deal for a mere £6 million, a sum that to a man of Ronson's stature is little more than pocket money.

The awful error that led him into the Guinness shambles is one that Mr Ronson has had long enough to regret, not least during a well-publicised stay in Ford Open Prison for the man once lionised as "the finest businessman of his generation". The paradoxes multiply; the man who risked his freedom and good name for that £6 million has always been one of the country's most generous donors to charity. Only this week, as his business empire revealed its financial troubles to the world, Mr Ronson's Heron International went into first place in the league table of corporate givers, having handed out £4.8 million between June 1990 and June last year. He narrowly pushed into second place, BT, by some measures Britain's biggest company. It is hard to believe that the character flaw that led him down the path to Ford was mere greed; more likely, in the heady climate of the Eighties, it was the driven need to do a deal, however trivial.

> 'You'll never be anything, Ronson, you are good for nothing' — that made me determined to prove him wrong

Although Heron's tentacles spread through petrol stations, financial services and various marketing activities including Rolls-Royce dealerships, the core of the business was always property. Heron was founded in 1957 on capital raised from the sale of the family furniture firm, which Mr Ronson left school at 15 to join. His reputation as a self-made man, despite the launchpad of the family firm, is highlighted by his memories of his schooldays. "I could not wait to get out," he said. "I remember one of the teachers, who I really hated, saying to me, 'You'll never be anything, Ronson, because you are good for nothing,' and that made me determined to prove him wrong."

The academic duffer who sets out to disprove his teachers has slipped into popular mythology and cliché from Churchill onwards, but Mr Ronson became an outstanding example of the breed.

By the late Fifties he and his father Henry were running a medium-sized but hardly dynamic business. His father was a son of Jewish parents who had fled to Britain to escape the pogroms of the early years of the century.

Mr Ronson had started by putting in long hours on the shop floor, and the habit has stayed with him. His foresight in moving into property, and from there housebuilding throughout the boom years of that industry and into petrol stations in the Sixties, pioneering the concept of self-service in Britain, left father and son fifteen years on controlling a fair-sized empire and facing their first real reverse, the 1973-74 secondary banking collapse. Until then the striking feature of Heron's expansion was its ability to grow without running into liquidity problems that might have required a move to the stock market. The move into petrol stations was a typically bold one — the big oil barons said it could not be done by an independent outside the industry, yet within five years they were borrowing Heron's ideas. It also created a business with strong cash flow support the other parts in the hard days of the early Seventies.

By the Sixties Gerald Ronson was running the firm, with his father largely on the sidelines, and petrol was very much the son's creation. He saw it with a property developer's eye: high volume sites, well positioned to attract customers, could, once developed, be sold on to oil majors and the proceeds re-invested in new sites.

He acquired a reputation for toughness, charging petrol station attendants for any shortages, and secretiveness, with something of a chip on his shoulder about the City that contrasts with the web of contacts he was to build up later.

Happier times: Gerald Ronson with pictures of his family growing up — they were a mainstay during his trial and imprisonment

By the early Eighties Heron was coming out of its shell, not always with the greatest of success. Mr Ronson pulled out of a bruising battle for control of Lew Grade's old entertainments empire, Associated Communications Corporation. He was again outbid, by Lord Hanson this time, in an attempt to buy UDS Group, the antiquated clothing stores, but walked away with a healthy profit.

Heron had moved across the Atlantic into the booming American thrift business, the equivalent of British building societies, by buying Pima. By 1984 Pima was claimed to be the fastest-growing financial institution in its home state of Arizona. Pima proved to be one of Mr Ronson's biggest successes, one of his biggest failures and the engine of his downfall, in that order. By 1989 the thrift industry had expanded into chaos and collapse as over-optimistic borrowers got into difficulties and Pima was costing Heron £44 million a year. It was also the business to which Guinness paid much of the fatal £5.8 million for Heron's support in the Distillers bid. Heron returned the money.

Mr Ronson's shame-faced admission that he took money for help with the bid was one of the first chinks of light in the Guinness affair. A terse statement was telexed to a financial newswire service at 6.30 pm; by 6.35 calls to Heron's head office on London's Marylebone Road were being answered by the night doorman and when he clocked off next morning Mr Ronson's name was on the front page of every newspaper. On the eve of a 1988 court appearance the message was business as usual at Heron, and Mr Ronson was unveiling plans for a £100 million expansion to turn Heron into Britain's biggest independent petrol retailer and create 1,500 jobs. "I am going in with my head held high. Everybody is being very supportive. It has affected none of our relationships with suppliers, banks and so on," he said.

He insisted he would not be selling the business and retiring abroad, as rumours had it. "You don't spend your time sitting down and calculating whether you are worth threepence or two bob — there's a business there needing to be run," he said. Conviction and sentencing came in September 1990. Striking at his trial were 53 glowing testimonials and character references from some of the City's biggest names: Sir John Quinton, Barclays Bank chairman, BTR's Sir Owen Green and Vickers' Sir David Plastow, who came to court.

They reflected the way the former outsider had worked his way into the mainstream of business life through his tireless appetite for a deal. After the Guinness storm broke, a gathering at the Savoy Hotel included on the top table Sir Martin Jacomb, a director of the Bank of England and then head of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, Sir David Scholey of SG Warburg, NatWest's Lord Boardman and Midland's Sir Kit McMahon. Their presence, and that of other industrialists were testimony to a groundswell of City opinion that Mr Ronson was being victimised for an act which barely qualified as a crime.

Mr Justice Henry, who sentenced him to a year at Ford, shared the City's high opinion. The crime was: "An aberrant moment of greed in an otherwise exemplary life. But Mr Ronson was not charged with any of the classic white collar crimes such as false accounting, Companies Act breaches or insider dealing. He was charged with theft, a fact which still rankles. It has been argued that if any of the Guinness conspirators, or most people in the City, had been asked at the time if they believed what they were doing constituted a crime, the honest answer would have been no.

But the Guinness fraud, far from being victimless, was an example of spreading the number of victims so thin they hardly notice they have been robbed. By being allowed to buy Distillers at less than it was worth in exchange for shares inflated in value, the conspirators effectively robbed every member of the public with exposure to the stock market via pensions and unit trusts given, how widely the shares were held.

Mr Ronson agreed with Ernest Saunders to buy his holding on the basis that any losses, if the shares subsequently fell, would be repaid. That act was a crime. Mr Ronson was also fined £5 million, the largest sum handed down by a British court. Mr Ronson continued to run Heron in a hands-on style, using a portable phone, throughout his time at Ford. He walked out in September last year into the arms of the family that had sustained him and that remain his mainstay and the centre of his life. He married his wife Gail, a former model, in 1967, and they have four daughters who would themselves not look out of place on the catwalk. Home is a luxurious Hampstead mansion, and he spends summer weekends on his yacht, My Gail III, named after his wife.

He remains a rough and often abrasive tycoon of the old school, despite Gail's attempts to overlay a patina of sophistication. In this he contrasts oddly with the City types who came to his aid at the trial and who profess a genuine liking for him. Money talks, of course; many of those bankers at the Savoy have good reasons to see the good ship Heron stay afloat. But it is hard to believe such a glittering gathering of the great and the good acted entirely in self-interest.

He has survived the trauma of disgrace and prison. His professional survival over the next months is now up to the banks whose leading lights provided such strong personal support then.

Business Profile on Julian Ogilvie Thompson has been held over until next week

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WEEK ENDING Matthew Bond

The music is still playing but the party looks over

SO IS it to be the briefest of *au revoirs* or a more permanent *adieu?* After a 13-year run, will the curtain fall for the final time, or rise again after a short overnight intermission to unveil a remarkable fourth act? We shall, of course, find out all too soon.

But who cares what tomorrow, or Thursday, might bring. While the familiar tunes of the past decade or so are still playing, the party continues. Well, doesn't it?

Well up to a point. The music is still playing and the familiar characters who have danced to the music of money for so long are still dancing. But for how much longer?

Even the most practised exponents of the Tory two-step have noticed a change in the party atmosphere, a rather stale air that combines *fin de siècle* decadence with a *fin du monde* sense of impending disaster.

Many dance on, safe in the knowledge that the distress rockets have been fired and that Captain Heseltine of the SS Californian is on his way. Others are tempted by the idea of one last, glorious binge as the ship goes down. But they might be disappointed. The good old boys of the private sector are still valiantly going through the motions, but, frankly, there is a tired, token feel to their efforts.

Most people had thought Sir Freddie Laker had flown off into the corporate sunset for good ten years ago, when Laker Airways succumbed to an early double whammy of over-expansion and unfair competition. But now Sir Freddie is back, although, by basing his fledgeling airline in the Bahamas, he is unlikely to have much of a role in *Nightmare on Kinnock Street*.

His new airline will fly American tourists to the Princess resort on Grand Bahama, which is owned by his old friend and mentor Tiny Rowland, or more accurately by Lonrho while it and Mr Rowland remain not quite one and the same thing. Lonrho said it had not yet heard whether the United Nations was planning to introduce economic sanctions against Laker Airlines, and insisted the deal would go ahead regardless of Sir Freddie's popularity.

Despite his Bahamian domicile, Sir Freddie retains all his old transatlantic ambitions and is certain that the glory days of Skytrain can be recaptured. To test demand, he has an early morning flight planned for this Friday, taking off from Gatwick and landing at Douglas, Jersey, Monaco, British Virgin

Islands, the Caymans and, finally, the United States.

Sir Freddie said booking interest for Taxtrain — which he described as a stretcher-on, skip-off service — had been phenomenal, although he admitted that one substantial block booking was conditional on the parties involved failing to persuade the Liberal Democrats to include home rule for the south-east of England as a statutory part of any post-electoral deal with the Labour party.

Back home, another Thatcher aviator was demonstrating that somehow things were not quite what they used to be. Richard Branson, the former minister for litter, teamed up with Bruce Gyngell, Mrs Thatcher's favourite broadcaster and pen-pal, to bid for the second national commercial radio franchise. It goes without saying that such leading exponents of private enterprise, albeit shorn of their record company and television station respectively, were successful. But they won almost without paying — their £1.9 million bid amounting to the tiniest drop in the public sector borrowing ocean, whoever is counting.

The fact that one of the people who appeared to be counting on it, together with a further £7.998 billion of privatisation proceeds, was John Smith, the man who would be Lamont, was a source of rare delight to embattled Conservatives. What they appear to have forgotten was that no one had been able to work out where the £8 billion was coming from when the Conservative government prepared the figures.

The fact that Wobbly Wednesday saw the City take a 50-point fright was less to do with anticipation of a Labour victory and more to do with the belated realisation that both parties had got their sums wrong, making remedial fiscal action inevitable, whichever side won. Prices tumbled, as the dedicated lines linking the Square Mile with the Bahamas began to glow.

But while the City plans for all eventualities, its experts remain puzzled as to why Britain's middle classes have failed to rumble Mr Smith's wallet-slimming tax proposals. The answer, Week Ending has learnt, lies with the Old Testament. All papers relating to Labour's tax measures are ferociously stamped with the following embargo.

"Tell it not in Bath,
Publish it not in the streets of Aldershot,
Less the daughters of the philistines rejoice
Less the daughters of the undecided revolt.
"Are you listening in Bath?"

Young Group shares hit 4p

BY ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Young Group, best known for its opencast coal mines, crashed 31p to 4p yesterday when trading resumed after the publication of restructuring proposals.

The group is to give up its quotation on the Unlisted Securities Market because the recovery scheme breaches Stock Exchange rules. Trading in the shares will, however, continue on a matched-bargain basis under rule 535:2. Young Group shares were suspended on Thursday.

The proposals involve the company's largest shareholders depositing £1.2 million with its bankers as security for an overdraft extension, so Young can overcome its cash-flow problems.

In return for putting up the money, the shareholders will receive warrants to subscribe for new shares. The proposals permit a 74 per cent enlargement of the company's capital. BIL Securities will control 39.2 per cent of the shares and 3i, the investment capital group, 22.1 per cent. Robert Young, who is stepping down as chairman but remains chief executive, will have 15.9 per cent. A new chairman has yet to be named.

In the year to November 30, Young made pre-tax profits of £245,000 (£89,000 loss) on sales up 12.5 per cent at £41.5 million. There is no final dividend.

NEW YORK

Dow slips in early trading

New York — Blue chips were weak in the morning as most buyers stayed on the sidelines to digest an unemployment report for last month that showed a smaller than expected rise of 19,000 jobs in non-farm payrolls. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 6.12 points to 3,228.

☐ **Tokyo** — The Nikkei index closed firmer in volatile trading, but the broader market was weaker. The Nikkei index was up 273.68 points, or 1.5 per cent, to 18,559.71. Turnover was about 350 million shares, compared with 365 million shares on Thursday.

☐ **Hong Kong** — Shares finished softer in dull trading dominated by profit-taking in a handful of blue chips. Gains were wiped out by afternoon selling, mainly of Cheung Kong, a property developer, and HSBC Holdings, pushing the Hang Seng index down 7.57 points to 4,916.70.

☐ **Sydney** — The market closed at its highs for the day. The all-ordinaries index closed 4.6 points up at 1,565.8 after sinking to a low of 1,556.4.

☐ **Frankfurt** — Prices ended a quiet day steady with a slightly lower bias. The Dax index ended 2.03 points down at 1,719.63.

☐ The Wall Street prices table has been held out because of lack of space.

STOCK MARKET

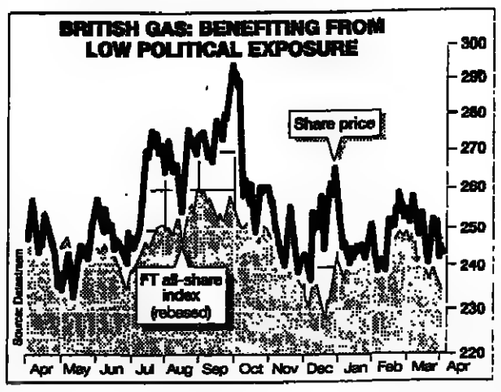
Poll fears send shares lower

SHARE prices were suffering another bout of election nerves as both the financial year and the two-week account drew to a close. Prices were left to drift for much of the day with fund managers reluctant to open fresh positions before the new account begins on Monday.

The prospect of a Labour victory, or even a hung parliament, continues to weigh heavily on sentiment. Fears that the weekend opinion polls may show the Conservative party losing more ground kept both the fund managers and private investors on the sidelines.

The fall in the FT-SE 100 index accelerated during the afternoon in anticipation of Wall Street opening lower after the latest gloomy American employment figures. In the event, the index ended just above its low for the day, with a loss of 22.7 points to 2,382.7. This means the fall on the account was 73.9 points.

By the close, 532 million share had been traded, with the bulk of yesterday's business made up of the squaring-up of positions before the financial year-end and bed-and-breakfast transactions to establish tax losses. Dealers said there was little evidence of any genuine retail demand. Government securities spent a lacklustre day, closing virtually unchanged.



The banking sector suffered some hefty losses as Heron International, the private company owned by Gerald Ronson, began talks about rescheduling its debts. **Barclays** fell 12p to 287p, **Lloyds** 12p to 348p, **Midland** 3p to 337p, **National Westminster** 6p to 253p, **The Royal Bank of Scotland** 3p to 151p, and **The Bank of Scotland** 4p to 99p. Analysts are convinced that the banks will eventually have to make further provisions for bad debts.

American support appears to have been of little benefit to **BP** which saw its shares slip another 4p to 242p. American investors have increased their holding in the company by about 3 per cent to 11 per cent since the start of the year, but British investors continue to give the shares a wide berth. They are worried by the possibility of a cut in the dividend.

The utility companies remained unsettled, worried that a Labour victory would be accompanied by a programme of renationalisation. Yamaichi, the Japanese securities house, says the water sector and electricity distribution companies are already discounting a Labour victory.

Further falls can be expected if that is confirmed. A Conservative victory could mean gains of almost 50 per cent.

Yamaichi says the power generators carry the biggest risk and gives a warning that the new coal contract will prove crucial to future earnings growth. It remains a buyer of **Scottish Hydro**, down 1p at 81p, and **Scottish Power**, 1½p lighter at 79p, but continues to take a bearish view of **National Power**, 1p firmer at 192p, and **PowerGen**, 2p better at 203p.

Yamaichi is impressed by **British Gas**, down 2p at 243p, which, it says, has been the best performing utility since the election campaign began because of its low political exposure. There were further losses among the water companies with **Anglian** down 2p at 312p, **Northumbrian** 1p to 348p, **Southern** 4p to 310p, **South West** 1p to 336p, **Thames** 1p to 333p, **Welsh** 2p to 351p, and **Wessex** 1p to 383p. But there were gains for **North West**, 3p to 332p, **Severn Trent**, 3p to 304p and **Yorkshire**, 5p to 354p.

Among the electricity distributors **East Midlands** lost 2p to 206p, **Midlands** 1p to 219p, **Norweb** 6p to 237p, **Southern** 3p to 211p, **South Wales** 4p to 247p, **South West** 2p to 223p and **Yorkshire** 8½p to 265p. **Eastern** also fell 4p to 207p after Kleinwort Benson, the broker, downgraded its profit forecast for the the current year by £22 million to £135 million.

Atlas Converting Equipment, which makes equipment for cutting rolls of specialist plastic and paper, plunged 203p to 508p in the USM after announcing that manufacturing orders were running at a reduced level.

Young Group, the troubled coal-mining group, at 4p, has arranged a refinancing package, but will be forced to cancel its USM listing.

Shares in **Arthur Shaw** dived 29p to 21p in the USM after the window fittings maker gave a warning that it would suffer a full-year loss, before exceptional items relating to reorganisation and redundancies, and would not be paying a final dividend.

MICHAEL CLARK

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Redland	481p (+14p)
Steetley	418p (+12p)
Elec Data Process	405p (+10p)
Scot TV	750p (+40p)
Pearson	755p (+10p)

FALLS:

Independent	315p (−10p)
Barclays	287p (−12p)
Lloyds	348p (−12p)
Greene King	484p (−15p)
SA Breweries	870p (−38p)
RHM	210p (−8p)
J Sainsbury	375p (−8p)
Fisons	322p (−12p)
Glaxo	767p (−12p)
Evans Of Leeds	108p (−7p)
Allied Text	393p (−15p)
BAT	678p (−9½p)
Ocean Group	302p (−9p)
Tiphook	319p (−8p)
Siebe	604p (−14p)

Closing Prices..Page 29

RECENT ISSUES

[illegible] Smaller Units (500)	455	−2
Avonside Group (100)	101	...
Bodycote Intl (RFD)	377	−1
Brent Walker Wts	3	...
British Data Mngmnt (125)	117	+5
CRP Leisure	27	...
CU Environmental	94	...
CU Environmental Wrnts	20	...
Capital Industries 1p	56	...
Fleming Inc & Cap Tst Inc (70)	66	...
-do- Units (100)	97	...
-do- Zero Div Pf (30)	31¼	...
Forth Ports (110)	123	+1
Headlam Group (RFD)	72	...
Latin Amer Inc & Ap (£10¼)	£11½	...
M & G Recovery Inc	35	...
M & G Recovery Inv Cap	12½	...
M & G Recovery Inv Grd Uts	47	...
M & G Recovery Pckg Uts	97	...
Multitrust Warrants	11	...
Platignum A	4	...
River & Merc Tst Inc 12¼p	103	...
-do- Stppd Prf 12¼p	123	...
Roseby's (115)	127	...
Templeton Emg Mkts C (100)	99	...
Usher-Walker (RFD 1/1/92)	153	−4
Welpac (RFD)	22½	...

India makes international share debut

By Karen Woolfson

THREE of India's largest conglomerates are preparing to make their debut on the international markets by launching multi-million dollar share offers. The offers will be launched in Europe within the next six months, with London favourite to play host.

A City source said that the Indian sales to foreign investors are expected to amount to $400 million this year, and could reach a total of $1 billion by the end of next year if everything goes according to plan.

Citibank, Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch are expected to take leading roles in India's debut offers. These will comprise parts of the high-profile groups Tata, Birla and Ambani, which own around 250 companies between them and have combined sales of almost $10 billion.

The global offers will include a stake in Tata Steel, part of the diversified conglomerate Tata, with annual sales of $1 billion. Tata is also setting up a joint venture computer group with IBM and intends to float a 20 per cent stake in it.

Another potential candidate for overseas investment is Tata's software arm, which is linked to Unisys and other American groups.

Foreign sales in the next six months will include stakes of up to 25 per cent in the largest subsidiaries of the Birla group, the textile and fibre companies Grasim and Century, which have annual sales of around $500 million each.

In a separate move, Birla's subsidiary, Hindustan Motors, is completing a deal with General Motors of America for the sale of a 30 per cent stake in the Indian company.

The fourth international offer is Reliance, the largest company in the Ambani conglomerate with annual sales of around $1 billion.

A City source said: "It is likely the first four companies to offer equity will seek listings in London. They are not at take-off stage with listing requirements today, but within three to six months they should be".

Six other international sell-offs are in the pipeline. They may include part of IPCL, the state-owned petrochemicals group, which is a privatisation candidate with annual sales of $2 billion. The Indian government plans to privatise about 25 groups, many of which are already collaborating with European and American companies.

Current efforts by Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs to set up operations in India place them in a good position to handle the continent's global offers.

Jardine Fleming, Schroders and James Capel are also potential candidates because of their experience in emerging markets.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

a makes national re debut

ARES WOOLFSON

WEEKEND MONEY

SATURDAY APRIL 4 1992

Edited by Lindsay Cook

Credit where credit is due

COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

A record 1.8 million county court judgments were made last year. All of them are now on computer records available to any credit reference agency or any lender.

The increase is worrying, not only to those in debt but also to those who might be tainted by the information held on others. Credit reference agencies defeated the data protection registrar last month, when a tribunal ruled that the agencies were entitled to supply information on other members of a household when someone applies for credit.

This means that if a student son or daughter runs up a credit card bill and does not pay it the parents could end up with a black mark against their credit rating. The presence of a nanny or au pair who does not pay for goods bought by catalogue could also lead to difficulty for his or her employers when they want to borrow money.

Credit reference agencies have always insisted that they should supply information to lenders about related persons when someone applies for a loan. This, they say is relevant information about the credit-worthiness of the applicant.

Nonsense, replies Eric Howe, the data protection registrar. The practice of supplying debt information on other members of a household or those with similar names is unnecessarily blackening good payers and preventing them from getting loans when lenders are being more cautious than ever before.

The registrar estimates that information about third parties is putting 100,000 people at a disadvantage each year when applying for credit. While no one wants easy lending with no checks, encouraging the young — or, for that matter, the old — to be feckless, the idea that those with impeccable financial records can have them tarnished by someone else is not acceptable. The registrar has been battling for four years to correct this wrong, but so far the retailers and credit agencies have won the day.

Many people are unaware of the information stored on their household until they actually apply for a loan, and are turned down. Then they have the right to find out what is on record about them. They can correct any inaccurate details, but they cannot change the records on others in their household, even if they feel that they have no bearing on their own credit-worthiness. A misspent youth can have serious repercussions for everyone in the household.

Value gap

A minority of borrowers will now be able to contest house valuations through the building societies ombudsman, following the Building Societies Association's decision not to appeal against a High Court decision that certain valuation complaints could be dealt with by the ombudsman. But the decision still leaves most borrowers with no effective recourse if they feel the property they have set their heart on has been misvalued. Unless the valuation has been done by a lender's staff valuer, and a borrower is remortgaging or is moving house and taking out a mortgage with the same lender, the ombudsman will not take up the case.

Many first-time buyers and borrowers strapped for cash who need a large advance are being prevented from going through with a deal, even if a price has been agreed, because the property is being downvalued. Valuers are wary of being blamed by lenders for putting too high a price on properties, and are instead slicing as much as 10 per cent of the agreed price in some cases. Deals fall through because borrowers cannot bridge the gap between what the lender will advance and the price being asked by the seller. Consequently, any recovery in the housing market is strangled at birth, just when it needs all the help it can get. It is particularly worrying that many of the deals involve would-be first-time buyers. They are being hailed as the solution to a stagnant market by lenders, but as soon as they agree a price, a downvaluation is thrown up as a new obstacle.

Homebuyers are now urgently in need of the valuers' ombudsman scheme presently being discussed by the Building Societies Association and the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. This scheme would cover all valuations, and would fill a much needed gap.

Over 90 per cent of borrowers rely solely on the lender's compulsory valuation. At the moment, if something goes wrong, their only option is to sue the lender or the valuer. This week's decision has divided borrowers into two camps and has actually increased discrimination against the majority.

Survival guide for savers if Labour wins on Thursday

The opinion polls seem to indicate a Labour victory next week, along with a new tax regime which will hit those earning more than £22,000 a year. **Lindsay Cook** and **Sara McConnell** have been looking at ways that the tax bills can be reduced for middle and high earners. The post-election guide also looks at investments and mortgages.

UTILITIES

SHAREHOLDERS in privatised utilities will not be forced to sell their shares back to a victorious Labour government, but will find the companies will have to spend more on meeting stringent regulations. This could affect profitability and dividends.

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, made clear this week Labour would not take the National Grid and the water companies back into public ownership, as previously planned. Instead, all utilities, both publicly and privately owned, would be more tightly regulated. Labour would set up a Consumers' Protection Commission, aimed at curbing excessive price rises in utilities, as set out in the party's manifesto.

There has been little frantic selling of privatisation stocks, partly because of the removal of the threat of renationalisation, but mainly because their performance has been mostly disappointing.

Neil Stapley, managing director of NatWest Stockbrokers, said: "There have been some sellers of privatisations, but the volume has not been overwhelming and people are certainly not panicking. We are not advising clients to get rid of their stocks."

TAX ALLOWANCES

COUPLES will be encouraged to use the independent tax system fully to avoid paying unnecessary tax. By transferring savings from a higher earning spouse, tax at 50 per cent may be avoided.

Everyone has a tax allowance that can be set against either earned or unearned income. This will increase by £330 to £3,625. Everyone will be able to earn £330 more a year before they pay tax.

The first £23,700 of taxable earnings for each partner is then taxed at 25 per cent. Taxable earnings up to £36,375 will be taxed at 40 per cent, as now. Above £40,000 a year tax will begin to be paid at 50 per cent.

Many non-working wives do not have sufficient income to use their whole allowance, and husbands are not able to set those allowances against their earnings. But they can hand over savings to avoid tax. By giving income-earning savings to a non-taxpaying spouse, a 50 per cent taxpayer can avoid any tax being deducted at all. At present interest rates, a high-earner can transfer £30,000 to a non-taxpayer and comfortably avoid tax.

The money could earn about 11 per cent gross in the best building society accounts returning £3,300 — well within the personal tax allowance, even if rates rise 1 per cent. This would pay no tax in a non-taxpayer's account, while a taxpayer would receive only the net rate of 8.25 per cent and would have to pay a further 25 per cent at the end of the year, giving a total tax loss for a top-rate payer under Labour of £1,650.

There will be no extra tax on unearned income under Labour. It had originally considered charging 9 per cent — the equivalent of the National Insurance contributions to bring investment income into line with the tax rate on salaries.

Where the wife earns more, couples can benefit from the married couple's tax allowance of £1,720 being used by the partner taxed at the highest rate.

Under Labour, couples will be able to choose how this is used. This will be backdated to the new tax year, starting on Monday. This could be worth £430 a year to a couple where the wife is taxed at 50 per cent and her husband is a basic rate taxpayer. This year's Budget had proposed to make the change a year later.

PEPS AND BES

LABOUR has no immediate plans to abolish personal equity plans if it wins next week's general election, so potential investors should disregard sales hype from financial advisers or Pep plan managers telling them to act before Thursday in case Peps are abolished.

BESt Investment, which produces the monthly independent *Best Pep Guide* for financial advisers, said this week that investors should wait until there is a more complete range of plans incorporating the changes in Norman Lamont's Budget.

Investors will be allowed to put their £6,000 allowance into a unit trust or investment trust in the 1992-1993 tax year. Previously, only £3,000 of the allowance could be held in these collective investments.

BESt Investment said this week in the *Best Pep Guide*: "There is an inevitable temptation to try and beat the election by subscribing for Peps between April 6 and April 9. In our view it makes little sense to do this because if Labour wins, the stock market will probably fall in the short term. The range of £6,000 plans will increase substantially over the next few months and Labour has stated categorically that it will not seek to take any immediate action over Peps."

Nitya Bolam, analyst at BESt Investment said: "Some plan managers marketing Peps have been using Labour's plans as a tool, but financial advisers have also mistakenly been telling people that they should invest now and be safe rather than sorry. We would say, hold off investing before the election."

☐ Higher-rate taxpayers will still be able to get tax relief on up to £40,000 invested in business expansion schemes under a Labour government. The days of these schemes are now unlikely to be fewer under Labour than under the Conservatives, who have already announced that all schemes will be stopped in December 1993. Labour told the BES Association this week that abolition of BES schemes would not be backdated.

Those who would will have to pay more tax under a Labour government could put money into a BES company and get tax relief at up to 50 per cent on the investment.

NATIONAL INSURANCE

FROM Monday, National Insurance contributions will be charged on earnings up to £405 a week. Under Labour, there would be no ceiling on the contributions. This means that income above £21,060 would be subject to the 9 per cent employee's contribution.

Some employees, employers and their accountants are already looking at ways of reducing this tax burden. If they become self-employed consultants, they may avoid the National Insurance and may be able to pay tax on a Schedule D basis, which allows greater flexibility.

The risks are that the Inland Revenue may not accept the new status of the former employees, and their companies could in future years cut back on the work of outsiders as an economy measure. There is also the possibility that National Insurance contributions could be increased for the self-employed.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

COUPLES frightened of 50 per cent tax rates on savings can shelter up to £80,000 in National Savings certificates straight away, and put another £4,800 beyond the reach of the Inland Revenue over the next year.

New investment in the 36th issue National Savings certificate is limited to £10,000 per individual, as is investment in the 5th issue index-linked certificates.

It is also possible for a husband to open a trust account with himself as trustee and his wife as beneficiary, and buy a further £10,000 worth of both certificates, and for her to do the same. This brings the total to £80,000. Those with maturing certificates can put another £10,000 in each of the tax-free certificates.

The 36th issue is currently paying 8.5 per cent and this is guaranteed over the five-year life of the certificate. Anyone withdrawing earlier gets a much poorer rate.

Those who are reluctant to commit large sums for five years until they have a clearer view of whether interest rates will rise after the election might consider the gross-paid investment account. The account, paying 9.5 per cent currently, has a maximum investment limit of £25,000.

The 5th issue index-linked certificates pay 4.5 per cent in addition to the inflation rate. They must be viewed as a five-year investment, as the return is very low in the early years. Up to £200 a month may be put in a Yearly Plan paying 8.5 per cent tax-free, and £1,000 can be placed for each child in the Children's Bonus Bond, paying 11.84 per cent over five years.

☐ Tax-exempt special savings accounts offered by banks and building societies allow adults to save up to £9,000 over five years, tax-free. The maximum investment in year one is £3,000, but unlike National Savings, most of the interest rates are variable and rise or fall with market rates.

UNIT TRUSTS

UNIT trust investors should not panic and pile out if Labour wins the election, even if the market plummets, fund managers and stockbrokers say.

An outright Labour victory would be more reassuring than a hung parliament for markets desperate for certainty, and any fall should be short-lived, they say. People selling will lose money unnecessarily.

For those who do not fancy UK equities in the event of a Labour victory, Mary Blair, product development director at Fidelity Investments, suggested "international diversification", perhaps in Europe, where shares have underperformed the UK market, or even in Japan, where they are cheap.

Bigger tax bills under Labour would loom large in the minds of higher-rate taxpayers. Michael Anthony, marketing director of Guinness Mahon Asset Management, which this week launched three personal equity plans (Peps) for the 1992-3 tax year, said: "With Labour's intention of introducing a tax rate of 50 per cent for those with annual incomes of over £40,000, the value of the income payable from a Pep to someone in this tax bracket will increase by 25 per cent, compared with yields achieved from investments which are subject to tax."

Taxpayers could also defer tax bills by investing in offshore unit trusts or currency funds. Dividends on unit trusts and interest on currency funds can be rolled up, and no tax is payable until the money is repatriated to Britain. Rothschild, Prudential and Fidelity offer currency funds. Fidelity's fund operates like a bank deposit account; money can be held in sterling or another currency.

Those holding cash should hang on to it until the dust has settled, particularly if they have lump sums to invest. Robert Burdett, investment manager at Berry Asset Managment, said: "There will be a market reaction to a Labour victory, but no one knows how long it will last."

Cash holdings would benefit from any interest rate rise under Labour, as building societies and banks would follow each other up to keep savers. Deposits in cash unit trusts will also benefit from higher interest rates.

FIXED-RATE MORTGAGES

THOSE planning to buy a property or remortgage their home will need to be quick to get the most attractive fixed rates. These are being snapped up and pressure on the money markets means that new offerings are at a higher rate. Fixed rates give certainty to borrowers for the period of the guaranteed rate, although there are penalties for borrowers who decide to change their mortgage if rates fall lower than their fixed rate.

Those who opted for fixed-rate mortgages immediately before the last election have saved thousands and had peace of mind when rates rose to 15.4 per cent. At least two leading lenders have replaced fixed-rate mortgage offers with higher rates over the past week. Others say they will not be able to continue offering their advertised rates much beyond Thursday's election.

Rising demand from borrowers wanting to shield themselves from a possible interest rate rise after the election has meant that lenders quickly allocate tranches of money they have borrowed on the money markets to fund fixed rates.

BRIEFINGS

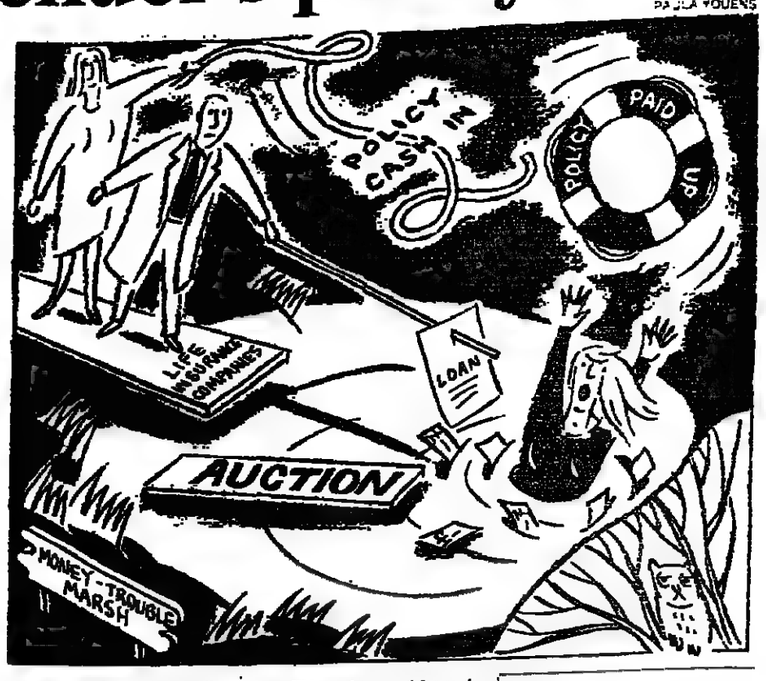
☐ Bank of Scotland is offering to match interest pound for pound on the savings of homeowners saving for their first home. Borrowers opening a Homebuilder high interest savings account will have all interest so far, up to £500 gross, matched — effectively, doubled — when they take out a mortgage with the bank. Only one Homebuilder account will qualify for the bonus even if borrowers are buying in joint names.

☐ Sharelink, the execution-only stockbroker, will be offering a special all-night election dealing service on April 9. The service will be open to all investors, both clients and non-clients, who want to buy or sell an FTSE-100 stock or privatisation stock. Investors should call Sharelink on 021-200 2242 between 4.30pm on April 9 and 8am on April 10, and will be able to get a quoted price for stock.

☐ Borrowers needing loans of £60,000 or more will get a discount of 0.5 per cent off their normal rate over the lifetime of the mortgage with the Cheltenham & Gloucester's C&G golf mortgage. This would bring the rate for these borrowers down to 10.25 per cent (APR 10.8 per cent) at current levels.

Surrender's poor yield

By Jill Insley



THE problem with life insurance as a method of saving is that it is intended as a long-term investment. If, halfway through the term of the policy, the investor can no longer afford the premiums, or circumstances otherwise change, it is not possible simply to get the money back.

This is the big difference between life insurance and building society or bank savings accounts, where all the money invested is easily returned with interest.

Cashing in a policy early may seem to have the advantage of stopping monthly payments and at the same time providing a lump sum. But although this may be the most familiar method of realising life insurance savings before maturity, it is neither the only way nor necessarily the best.

Life insurance is meant to be a long-term contract and is priced accordingly. An investor who surrenders a policy in the early years is likely to get a fraction of the money paid in, the rest having been eaten up by the life company's expenses.

There are alternatives to early surrender. If the investor does not need an immediate cash lump sum, but can no longer afford to meet monthly premiums, he or she can ask to have the policy "paid up". This means that although the investor makes no further payments to the company, the money already paid in will remain invested until the agreed maturity date.

By opting for a paid-up policy, the investor does three things: saves the on-going expenses of premiums; avoids the often onerous penalties imposed on early surrender; and retains an investment which should continue to grow and, importantly, which will benefit from any final bonus paid by the life insurer.

As an example, consider Standard Life's with-profits policy, frequently among the best performers in the market over 25 years. A man who took out a with-profits endowment policy for £30 a month in 1967 would have received only £28,676 if he surrendered his policy in 1987. However, had he asked for the policy to be paid up, he would have received £55,513 when it matured this year. If he had continued payments until the agreed maturity date he would have received £67,027.

Another alternative would be to borrow money against the value of the policy. This can be done directly with the insurer, who is likely to offer a preferential interest rate. Norwich Union charges 12 per cent for loans set against with-profits policies.

The investor can choose whether to repay the loan during the remaining term of the policy or to leave repayment until maturity, when the loan plus rolled-up interest will be subtracted from the final payout.

The final way for the investor to raise cash from a policy is to sell it at an auction. Life insurance policy auctions are held frequently by a small number of firms, of which Foster & Cranfield is perhaps the best known.

The purchaser of a policy at auction can decide to make the policy "paid up", or can continue making payments to the insurance company until maturity. Either way, on maturity or on the death of the person who took out the policy originally, the proceeds will go to the new policy owner.

Obviously, the prices raised at auction will depend on those bidding. However, prices realised at Foster & Cranfield's March auction included £12,700 for a Scottish Amicable policy taken out in 1973, which is to mature in 1998. Scottish Amicable had quoted £8,950 as the early surrender value.

PAID UP V SURRENDER

Calculations are based on the investor aged 24 taking out a with-profits endowment policy for £30 a month for 25 years in March 1967. The first two columns assume the policy was surrendered or made paid up in March 1987. The final shows the maturity value if premiums were paid for the full 25 years.

Company	Surrender value at 20 years (£)	Paid-up value at 20 years (£)	Maturity value (£)
MALE INVESTOR			
Standard Life	28,676	55,513	67,027
Scottish Amicable	24,402	58,581	63,489
Norwich Union	26,622	48,324	60,508
Legal & General	16,666	41,793	51,040
FEMALE INVESTOR			
Standard Life	28,780	55,713	67,267
Scottish Amicable	24,461	58,721	63,643
Norwich Union	26,622	48,324	60,508
Legal & General	16,706	41,893	61,186

Societies concede defeat

By Lindsay Cook

THE building societies ombudsman can now investigate cases involving valuations of properties by staff surveyors. The Building Societies Association decided this week that it would not appeal against a High Court decision in February that such cases were within the remit of the ombudsman.

Only complaints about valuations for further advances, or where an existing borrower is taking on another loan from the same society to move house, will be covered. It is mainly the larger societies which have in-house valuers.

Stephen Edell, the ombudsman, had taken the cases of four couples to the High Court for the friendly action, to test the limits of his powers. "I need to know where I am, what is within my jurisdiction," he said.

The majority of valuation complaints will still remain outside the scope of the office.

☐ This week the office of the building societies ombudsman announced that it has appointed a third ombudsman with effect from next month. Brian Murphy joins Mr Edell and Jane Woodhead, who was appointed last year.

Both Mr Murphy and Mrs Woodhead have been appointed because of the growth of complaints.

£10 dealing offer for readers

A NEW share-dealing service is launched today for readers of *The Times*. Offered by Hambro Clearing, a subsidiary of Hambros Bank, the postal service will allow readers to sell their shares in privatisation companies for a £10 dealing charge. Up to four members of the family, with the same surname, can sell shares in the same company for one fee.

The deals can be offered at this price because large numbers of sell orders for the same share are batched together and sold for the best price. This can cause a small delay, but all shares will be sold as early as possible on the day after receipt of the stock.

Investors will then be sent immediately a post-dated cheque for the amount the sale realised, less the commission, together with a contract note detailing the price obtained. The cheque is dated for the next Stock Exchange account day when payment is due to the share seller. It should not be banked before that date, which will be highlighted on the cheque.

No advice is given to people dealing, as it is an execution-only service. Shareholders must sell all their stock in any one company. Hambros is unable to deal with part sales.

The company estimates that it can handle 5,000 deals a day through its Cardiff dealing centre, and its other offices can be brought on line to help out if demand warrants it.

JOHN MANNING

Great expectations: People are unrealistic about bargains at police auctions, says Alan Davies, auctioneer

Bankruptcy bargains prove elusive

BY LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

A CAR for a tenth of its retail price or an IBM computer for £10 — these are the bargains promised in advertisements referring to "government auctions".

Since November, Carnell, a publishing company, has sold tens of thousands of copies of *The Government Auction Handbook*, a guide to auctions of goods seized from taxpayers who have not paid their bills, or from bankrupt companies.

The publishers say that it is in the interest of government departments, liquidators and bailiffs "to keep the whole procedure as quiet as humanly possible. This has been the case for many years, but now it's your turn to get in on the act".

The government departments concerned deny that there are easy pickings and they say that the sales are in no way secret. They are widely advertised. In many cases the sellers have a public duty to get the best prices possible and are not, as Carnell Ltd claims "... only interested in liquidating these goods quickly".

A director of the company said that the book was a comprehensive guide to the sale of the stock of all liquidated companies.

One handbook buyer is said in the advertisements to have paid £750 for an E-Type Jaguar that had been confiscated by Customs & Excise because it was used for smuggling drugs. The car, according to the advertisement, was later sold for £30,000.

Other bargains were said to have included an electronic typewriter with a retail price of £650, sold for £18, and a case of 12 bottles of Glenfiddich whisky, worth £120, sold for £40.

Alan Davies, managing director of Dowell Lloyd of Putney, London, which has auctioned items for the police and Customs & Excise for 20 years, says that these examples are misleading.

"If we get a case of whisky it sells for £85 or £90. We take bids from people who cannot attend the auctions because they are at work. Some of these are totally unrealistic. I had one this week for eight bottles of champagne and four of wine. It was for £15. There is no way a case of wine will go for that when there are hundreds of people ready to bid.

"People expect to get a £300 mountain bike for £10. A mountain bike will sell for probably £200 but it would cost £800 or more new in the shops."

Since the guide started being published, his monthly auctions for the Metropolitan Police have attracted many more customers. Four to five hundred people viewing the lots used to be normal. The number can now top 2,000. On Thursday about 800 people attended a sale of 700 to 800 lots.

"They started to queue at 7.20 am — two hours before the sale. One woman asked for her money back on the handbook because the prices were too high. She thought it was an official government book and that we published it."

Mr Davies added that none of his police or Customs & Excise sales could be described as secret. Every police station in London had the address of the auction house, and the Customs & Excise regularly received queries, he said. He also publishes catalogues for all sales, and customers can be put on the mailing list to receive all of them for £40 a year.

At the Inland Revenue, a spokesman said that last year it had seized goods in only 680 cases, although bailiffs had ticketed items in 26,000 cases. This action usually made taxpayers pay up promptly if they could.

"The items will sell for less than they would be in the shops, but they are not new and may be in large lots. There is a duty to get the best price possible when they reach auction."

He continued: "We always use reputable local auctioneers, and will advertise locally. There is no need for anyone to buy the handbook to find out about the sales."

A spokesman for Customs & Excise said: "There is not any secret. When goods are sold they are put in a general auction for the best price."

David Chesters, who is responsible for all the London airports for Customs & Excise, said that nothing went to public auction. Where commercial consignments were not collected because a company could not afford the duty, the department asked for sealed bids. Most individuals stopped for bringing too much through the green channel paid any penalty or duty by credit card, he said.

The Official Receiver, listed in the handbook advertisements, said that the amount it sold by auction was "quite minimal". If a company which was the subject of a bankruptcy order had assets, an insolvency practitioner would arrange for them to be sold by an auctioneer, and would have a duty to get the best price possible. If it were a large company it might justify a sale of its own. If not, the items would be added to a general sale.

The British Railways Board does not sell lost property by auction. Dealers bid for umbrellas or other items on a contract basis. On April 16, an auction of British Rail cars and vans will be held for the first time in Raynesway, Derbyshire, by ADT Auctions. In the past, their vehicles have been included in general sales.

Alison Cork, a director of Carnell, said that the handbook "is a bestseller by anybody's standards". The company was in the business of publishing self-help guides she said. These included *How to Talk to Your Cat*.

She said that she and John Claude Yves Patrick Gommes had formed the company in February 1990. Mr Gommes was the founder of Chartsearch and is still a director of it, but it had no connection with Carnell.

Accounts filed at Companies House showed Carnell had a turnover of £157,000 in the year to March 1991, had paid £207 in corporation tax and retained a profit of £42. Its stock included £6,790 of tomato and vegetable seed. This was left over from an offer of giant vegetables and tomatoes, she said.

Ms Cork was unable to put *Weekend Money* in touch with any of the buyers of bargain lots. She suggested that the co-author of the book, Jonathan Willis, would be able to help. His answerphone asked callers to leave the name of the item they were ordering and their credit card number.

Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 29).

Shares No	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Monday Total
1	+5	+3	+1	–4	+3		
2	+5	+6	+2	–3	+1		
3	+5	+2	+4	–2	+3		
4	+5	+4	+1	–5	+3		
5	+4	+2	+5	–2	+5		
6	+5	+6	+3	–3	+2		
7	+6	+2	+5	–4	+5		
8	+4	+4	+1	–5	+2		
9	+4	+1	+3	–3	+4		
10	+7	+3	+7	–4	+5		
11	+7	+2	+5	–3	+4		
12	+4	+3	+4	–1	+5		
13	+7	+3	+6	–5	+7		
14	+3	+5	+2	–2	+1		
15	+6	+4	+2	–5	+2		
16	+3	+1	+3	–2	+4		
17	+5	+3	+1	–4	+2		
18	+4	+2	+4	–2	+4		
19	+3	+6	+2	–4	+1		
20	+7	+5	+1	–6	+1		
21	+5	+2	+3	–2	+4		
22	+4	+7	+3	–2	+1		
23	+8	+1	+5	–4	+5		
24	+3	+6	+1	–4	+1		
25	+5	+3	+1	–5	+2		
26	+4	+2	+4	–1	+5		
27	+8	+3	+7	–2	+5		
28	+4	+6	+3	–2	+1		
29	+5	+4	+1	–5	+2		
30	+5	+7	+2	–3	+2		
31	+4	+3	+5	–3	+4		
32	+4	+5	+1	–3	+1		
33	+6	+2	+6	–3	+5		
34	+4	+3	+1	–6	+2		
35	+5	+4	+1	–4	+2		
36	+7	+2	+5	–4	+6		
37	+4	+5	+2	–3	+1		
38	+8	+2	+7	–4	+5		
39	+5	+3	+3	–2	+3		
40	+6	+1	+5	–5	+3		
41	+5	+5	+2	–5	+3		
42	+3	+1	+5	–1	+4		
43	+7	+2	+6	–4	+4		
44	+3	+7	+2	–3	+2		

Revenue to be told all

BY LINDSAY COOK

INFORMATION on more than 50 million savers will start to be passed to the Inland Revenue next week. For the first time, the interest earned on every single savings and current account will be sent to the Inland Revenue by banks, building societies and National Savings.

Previously, banks have only had to report interest above £500 per individual a year. Building societies sent information on savers earning more than £1,400 and National Savings passed on details of people getting more than £250 in interest.

The abolition of composite rate tax last April and the improvement of the Inland Revenue computers made it both essential and possible for the department to handle information on every account. Since April 6 last year accounts have been able to earn interest without any tax being deducted, if the savers declared themselves to be non-taxpayers. The Inland Revenue believes that large numbers of people may have innocently registered, thinking they are not taxpayers because most of their income comes from savings which were previously taxed at source.

For banks and building societies, it is simpler to send information on everyone earning interest than to eliminate details of those under £500 or £1,400 of interest.

However, many savers will be less than happy that information on their savings will be handed on. Many have, on the advice of accountants and other financial advisers, opened accounts with several societies to avoid the attention of the Inland Revenue. In this way they could hide income from the tax authorities and possibly avoid higher rate tax.

Most will be unaware of the change in the reporting rules that took place last April. These mean that at the end of the financial year details of their interest in many separate accounts will now be fed into the Inland Revenue computer.

An Inland Revenue spokeswoman said that when composite rate tax had been deducted from all savings at source the reporting limits were adequate. Now that accounts can be exempted from tax it is necessary to know everything that is earned.

Most people would have nothing to worry about, she said. Even if they had not declared their savings on their tax returns they will be basic rate taxpayers who have no more tax to pay. In some cases, the savings will make them higher rate taxpayers and there may be more to pay. In others, the savings and other income will top the individual's personal allowances and show they are taxpayers even though they have declared they are not.

People who fraudulently say they are non-taxpayers can be fined up to £3,000 but no-one has been fined yet.

Savers filling in the registration forms for gross payment are warned that their financial affairs could come under scrutiny. Originally it had been feared by banks and building societies that the Inland Revenue would investigate any accounts and associated records of the people who share joint accounts with savers who have declared themselves non-taxpayers. This could have deterred some non-working wives from registering for gross payment of interest for fear of bringing the wrath of the Revenue down on their self-employed spouses.

The account lingers on

From K. M. Stanley

Sir, Regarding the letter from B. J. Smith (March 28), I cut up and sent back my Access card in October 1991, paid my final bill, and received confirmation my account was cancelled.

However, I did not appreciate that cancelled is not the same as will not accept any more debits on the account. In January, I received a bill for a Book Club item which the Book Club have debited in error.

Numerous letters to Access have produced no useful response. In fact, Access seem to delight in writing replies which manage to answer nothing, merely refer you back to the retailer. Nor can I get them to confirm they will not accept any more debits, surely the point of cancelling a card.

In March, a further bill appeared. My insurance company used the Access number instead of a later Visa number. The insurance company assure me they couldn't have debited the Access account if it was cancelled.

Presumably, if I was a bad payer Access would find a way to stop accepting debits! Good luck, B. J. Smith.

Yours faithfully,
K. M. STANLEY,
101 Habershon Street,
Splott,
Cardiff.

☐ Letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets that it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements made in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

LETTERS

Entitled to exercise 'name only' option

From Craig Cockburn

Sir, I read with interest the letters on titles (March 21). I share a similar experience to Prof. Wilson. Bank of Scotland will not print my full forename on my Mastercard, also for "security reasons", despite my forename appearing in my signature on the reverse of the card!

Regarding F. L. Aburrow's letter — the Royal Bank of Scotland used to print "Esq" next to my name too, until I pointed out to them that Esq is an appendage which only a very small percentage of people are entitled to use. Titles — even "Mr" and "Ms" — are optional, and I should decide how my name is used. I like to keep things simple — I just use my forename and surname. No titles, no abbreviations and no appendages. Unfortunately, the great majority of computer systems insist that my forename is replaced with the letters "Mr C.".

Can I ask the people who devise such systems to incorporate a little more cultural flexibility, please?

Yours faithfully,
CRAIG COCKBURN,
34 Baker Street,
Reading, Berkshire.

From Prof. R. M. S. Wilson

Sir, I fear that Patrick A. Hill (March 28) misses both the points of my earlier letter (March 21, which, incidentally, was signed as this one and not as you published it).

Social custom (and courtesy) accords an array of titles that are not shown on birth certificates (eg. HRH, Rt Hon, Dr, Rev), and one would have thought that the inclusion of such titles on cards, cheques, etc., would help in reducing the incidence of fraud.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WILSON,
Standfield House,
264 Fulwood Road,
Broomhill, Sheffield,
South Yorkshire.

From Miss Mary Jelley

Sir, Mr Gavin A. St Pier (March 7) may be qualified to be addressed by the much abused title of Esquire, but he is not correct when he states that "only NatWest as a matter of routine prefix your name with a title".

Both Coutts & Co. and Lloyds do so unless requested otherwise — both of which reprinted my next cheque books when I explained that there were occasions when I did not wish it known whether I was Miss or Mrs.

Incidentally, I have always understood that a cheque should be made out in the manner in which the recipient would sign it.

Yours faithfully,
MARY E. JELLEY,
The Shepherd's Cottage,
Chute, Wiltshire.

Cross to bear

From D. J. Wilson

Sir, I read with interest the article by Liz Dolan on the 1992 Cheques Act, and the move by the big banks to introduce cheques carrying "account payee" (March 28).

While it is true that cheques are not passed from hand to hand to the same extent as bills of exchange, there are occasions when cheques are endorsed to make them payable to a party other than the original payee. A good example is when a payee wishes to pay the cheque into a building society account. The cashier will ask the payee to sign on the back of the cheque, in effect making the cheque payable to another party. If, as is usual, the payee signs on the back without designating the particular building society as the new payee, then the cheque becomes payable to bearer. A safeguard has been to write the name of the society in addition to signing.

However, with the new restriction, "account payee only", it will not be possible to pay cheques into a building society account in this way. Is there a way around this problem?

Yours faithfully,
D. J. WILSON,
7 Edgcumbe Green,
St Austell, Cornwall.

Debit entry

From M. E. Brown

Sir, I read (March 21) that some retailers are considering the termination of customers' use of credit and debit cards because some banks propose to charge stores more for this facility.

While applauding the protests of the stores, I am left wondering for what small services the banks will next think to charge.

Perhaps the installation of turnstiles so that it costs us 20p to enter their premises?

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET E. BROWN,
Pine Lodge,
East End Road,
Chariton Kings,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.

Action group aims to recover deposits lost in bank failure

From Mr John White

Sir, I am forming a Depositors' Action Group to recover depositors' savings in full from the National Guardian Mortgage Corporation, or from those responsible for allowing the bank to continue to take deposits while apparently insolvent. We will also aim to investigate the reasons for the sudden and unexpected demise of the bank.

I should be very grateful if you could let your readers know about the group so that any other unfortunate depositors can contact me.

In order to have the necessary "clout", the action group needs the backing of as many depositors as possible. The administrators have refused to release the names and addresses of depositors, so any publicity you can give would be very helpful.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WHITE,
PO Box 664,
Andover,
Hampshire.
Telephone: 0264 772828.

INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c: Typical	2.63	2.66	2.12	none/none	7 day	——
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	7.13	7.13	5.70	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-628 1567
"	7.78	7.78	6.22	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-628 1567
Lloyds	6.38	6.38	5.10	2,500-no max	1 mth	Local Bmch
"	7.26	7.26	5.81	02,500-no max	6 mth	Local Bmch
Midland	7.27	7.27	5.82	10,000-no max	1 mth	0742 528655
" " "	7.64	7.64	6.11	10,000-no max	3 mth	0742 528655
NatWest	6.56	6.56	5.25	10,000-24,000	1 mth	071-726 1000
" " "	6.94	6.94	5.55	10,000-24,000	5 mth	071-726 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland BMC	6.17	6.33	5.06	2,500‡	none	031-442 7777
Barclays Prime a/c	5.78	5.91	4.73	2,500‡	none	0604 252891
Co-operative Ultra	1.90	1.90	1.52	1,000‡	none	071 626 5543
Girobank	5.25	5.25	4.20	1,000‡	none	051 966 2076
Lloyds HICA	1.88	1.88	1.51	1,000‡	none	0272 433372
Midland HICA	4.44	4.49	3.59	2,000‡	none	0742 528655
NatWest Special Reserve	4.59	4.70	3.67	500‡	none	071-374 3374
Royal Bank of Scot Prem A/c	5.83	5.74	4.59	2,500	none	031-556 8565
TSB Bank HICA	4.31	4.31	3.45	2,000‡	none	071-600 6000
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	5.25	5.25	4.20	1 min	none	——
Best buy — largest socs:						
Portman	7.01	7.01	5.61	500 min	Inst	——
Northern Rock	8.25	8.25	6.60	2,000 min	Postal	——
Northern Rock	7.73	7.73	6.19	25,000 min	60 day	——
Birmingham Mid	8.33	8.33	6.67	25,000 min	90 day	——
Bradford & Bing	8.44	8.44	6.75	25,000 min	1 year	——
Best buy — all socs:						
The Nottingham	8.44	8.44	6.75	2,500 min	Postal	——
Chelsea	9.00	9.00	7.20	10,000 min	30 day	——
City & Metro	8.25	8.25	6.60	10,000 min	60 day	——
The Scarborough	8.63	8.63	6.90	1,000 min	90 day	——
Nottingham Imp	8.61	8.61	7.00	30,001 min	1 year	——
Cash/Cheque Accounts:						
Halifax Maxtra	2.33	2.36	1.88	50 min		Rates rise
Alliance & Leic Cash Plus	2.63	2.63	1.97	25 min		with larger
Nationwide Flex	2.25	2.25	1.80	1 min		balances

Compiled by Chase de Vere Moneyline - call 071 404 5768 for further details

NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c[1]	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c	9.50	7.13	5.70	5-25,000	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond*	10.25	7.69	6.15	2,000-25,000	3 mth	0253 68151
Deposit Bond*☐	10.25	7.69	6.15		3 mth	041-649-4555
36th Issue Cert*†	8.50	8.50	8.50	25-10,000	8 day	091-386 4900
Yearly Plan†	8.50	8.50	8.50	20-200/mth	14 day	091-386 4900
Children's Bond	11.84	11.84	11.84			
Gov Exc Rate†	6.01	6.01	6.01			
Capital Bond	11.50	8.62	6.90	100-100,000	6 yrs	041-649-4555
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
Alico	9.20	9.20	7.82	25,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from
Financial Ass	9.00	9.00	7.65	5,000 min	2 yrs	Chase de
Consolidated Life	9.00	9.00	7.65	5,000 min	3 yrs	Vere
Liberty Life *	9.10	9.10	7.74	25,000 min	4 yrs	071 404 5768
Aetna U.K.	9.30	9.30	7.91	30,000 min	5 yrs	for details

		Holiday rates	5 days
RPI (Feb 91-92)	+4.1%	Spanish Pesetas:	174.00
Bank Base Rate	10.5%	French Francs:	9.37
Personal Loan	24%	Greek Drachmas:	318.00
Credit Card	19.6-32%	Italian Lire:	2085.00

[1] 2.5% for balances below £500, first £70 of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 of less. ‡ Additional bonuses up to £10,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates. †Tax free. *Interest taxable paid gross. Higher rates for larger sums. ☐ No longer on sale.

LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Leeds & Holbeck 0532 459611	9.45	to £250K	95	Rate shown is fixed until 1.4.93
National & Provinc. 0274 733444	9.45	£80-200K	95	After 1.5% discount to 1.4.93
Norwich & Peterbor. 0733 371371	8.95	to £150K	90	Rate shown after 2% discount to 1.9.92
BANKS				
Bank of Ireland 0734 595555	9.75	£20-500K	95	Rate shown is capped until 1.1.93
OTHER (FINANCE HOUSE)				
Acume 0784 430003	9.80	£10-250K	95	Rate shown after 1.7% discount

Source: Bley's Guides Ltd. Financial Information Providers 0733 60462

Nervous end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 23. Dealings ended yesterday. §Contango day April 6. Settlement day April 13. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Lambert	Shoes,Lth	
2	Sheffield Insl	Building,Rds	
3	Bowater	Industrial	
4	Dairy Farm Ind	Drapery,Strs	
5	Utd Nwspaprs	Newspapr,Pub	
6	Wembley	Leisure	
7	AB Food	Foods	
8	Southnews	Newspapr,Pub	
9	Williams Hldg	Industrial	
10	ICI	Chems,Plas	
11	LASMO	Oils, Gas	
12	Invrgordn Dist	Breweries	
13	Taylor Woodrw	Building,Rds	
14	Rank Org	Industrial	
15	Enterprise	Oils, Gas	
16	Multitone Elect	Electrical	
17	Bradford	Property	
18	Bluebird Toys	Industrial	
19	Provident	Banks,Disc	
20	St Modwen Prp	Property	
21	Severn Trent	Water	
22	Transport Dev	Transport	
23	Medeva	Industrial	
24	Ibstock Johnsen	Building,Rds	
25	THORN EMI	Electrical	
26	Tomkins	Industrial	
27	Guinness	Breweries	
28	Bunzl	Paper,Print	
29	Ladbroke	Hotels,Cat	
30	Petrocon	Oils, Gas	
31	Dalgety	Foods	
32	Kwik Save	Foods	
33	Abbey Ntl	Banks,Disc	
34	First Tech	Electrical	
35	Lonrho	Industrial	
36	Sanderson Elec	Industrial	
37	North West	Water	
38	LWT CP	Leisure	
39	Cray Elec	Electrical	
40	Yorkshire W	Water	
41	Spring Ram	Industrial	
42	Burmah Castl	Oils, Gas	
43	Nichols (JN)	Foods	
44	MB-Caradon	Industrial	
© Times Newspapers Ltd.		Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Four readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr Michael Freeston, of Croxley Green, Hertfordshire, Mr P.R. McGarvey, of Dartford, Kent, Mrs Sophie Jacobs, of London NW8, and Mrs Lesley Lancaster, of Maldon, Essex, each receive £500.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

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WEEKLY DIVIDEND

£4,000

Claims required for +126 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
311	211	Abbey Ntl	283	+ 4	...	5.3	8.3
185	126	Allied Irish	158	...	...	5.9	11.5
60	25	Ansbacher (H)	26 †	...	0.0	...	...
199½	119½	Aust New Z	172	− 1	...	5.1	13.1
2662	1218	Bankamerica	2443 †	−46	...	...	...
173½	115½	Bk of Ireland	135	− 2	...	7.8	22.1
1950	1900	Bk Leumi Isrl	1900 #	...	...	...	...
350	340	Bk Leumi UK	340	...	16.0	6.3	...
126	91	Bank Scotland	99	− 4	...	5.7	21.5
489	287	Barclays	287	−12	...	9.8	40.7
12	3	Benchmark	3½	...	...	...	13.9
270	144	Brown Shipley	144	− 2	8.0	7.4	...

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
137	87	Marley	118 †	− 3	6.3	7.?	∞
108	74	Marshalls	76	− 1	5.0	8..	24.2
155	80	Maunders (J)	129 †	− 5	4.9	5.1	14.4
308	173	McAlpine (A)	173	− 4	[illegible]	7.9	12.0
114½	37½	McCarthy & S	48	− 2	...	2.8	...
494	352	Meyer Int	355	− 2	16.5	6.2	17.7
17	6	Miskin Gp♦	6	...	..	...	...
356	114	Mowlem (J)	[illegible]	...	...	21.5	10.2
44	2½	NSM	2½	...	0.5	...	...
177	112	Newman Tnks	130	− 1	9.3	9.5	16.4
304	187	Persimmon	249 †	− 4	8.6	4.6	14.7
55	16	Phoenix Timber	26	...	0.5	...	...
1250	875	Pochins	1250 †	...	24.0	2.6	9.4
201	133	Prowting	133	− 1	5.0	5.0	27.3
46	10	Quiligotti♦	10	..	1.5	...	...
[illegible]	491	RMC Gp	543	− 7	19.3	4.7	12.6
147	91	Rome Ind	99	...		8.1	10.5
76	50	Ramus♦	69		0.1	0.2	...
658	416	Redland	481	+14	..	7.2	22.3
79	61	Rotork♦	63		4.3	9.1	6.7
217	135	Rugby Group	175 †	− 5	...	4.9	13.8
62	23	Sandell♦	30				
68	36	Sarfid-Rvel♦	36		3.0	11.1	5.2
98	70	Sharpe & Fisher	91		4.0	6.0	∞
161	71	Sheffield Insl	74	+ 2	5.4	10.2	∞
110	53	Sheriff Hldgs♦	66	...	1.5	3.0	19.3
148	62	Shonco♦	65	...	5.3	11.1	∞
231	161	Smart (J)	223	...	7.9	4.8	7.7
22	10½	Sturmin	10½	...		3.8	21.7
424	252	Steetley	418	+12	14.0	4.6	...
283	95	Tarmac	121	− 2	11.2	12.4	13.6
175	106	Tay Homes	152	...	5.3	4.7	6.2
289	105	Taylor Woodrw	114	+ 3	9.5	11.1	10.7
725	508	Tilbury Dougls	538	...	33.0	8.5	∞
41	26	Torex Hire♦	26	..	0.4	2.1	...
251	175	Travis Perkins	184	...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
62	39	Try Group	51 †		6.0	15.7	7.0
33	22	Tudor♦	31		0.5	2.2	..
10	3	Venture Plant♦	6½			...	...
123	66	Vibroplant	94	− 1	3.6	5.1	13.1
208	65	Ward Group	66	...	7.2	...	2.9
100	40	Ward Hldgs	41	...	0.5	1.6	..
[illegible]	368	Watts Blake	383	...	9.3	3.3	∞
44	10	Wescol♦	11	...	...	...	...
190	96	Westbury	96	− 2	.	12.5	...
52	9	West Scaffold♦	15	...	...	...	...
62	6	Wiggins	8	..	...	...	...
451	335½	Wilson Bowdn	419	...	8.7	2.8	∞
211	159	Wilson (C)	167	− 7	3.9	3.2	∞
229	108	Wimpey G	136 †	− 2	10.5	10.3	26.5
78	43	YRM	64	− 1	5.0	10.4	6.7

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
213	120	Allied Colloids	191	− 2	3.5	2.4	18.3
481	301	Amersham	422	− 1	11.8	3.7	21.1
41½	23	Anglo Utd	23	...	...	9.3	...
247	144½	BTP	219	+ 1	...	5.4	13.3
£106½	7281	Bayer DM50	£103½	...	..	4.6	∞
224	120	Blagden	197 †	...	0.5	6.4	∞
160½	115	Brent Chems	123	+ 1	7.4	8.4	∞
128	42	Caird Gp	84 †	− 1	2.7	4.3	∞
171	94	Canning (W)	131	...	7.2	7.7	∞
203	142	Croda	160	...	7.5	6.4	∞
218	165	Ellis & Everard	189	...	7.0	5.0	14.5
18	8	Euro Colour	8½	..	0.6	10.2	29.2
124	43	Evode	55	..	3.5	8.7	...
406	202	Halstead (J)	404	+ 2	11.2	3.8	10.9
207	95	Hickson	179	− 1	8.0	6.1	∞
9325	6793	Hoechst	9200	...	...	7.5	...
1381	845	ICI	1228	+ 4	55.0	6.0	19.6
631	435	Laporte	546	− 8	...	4.7	13.5
391	234	Leigh	266	− 3	7.6	3.8	15.9
290	21	MTM	25	− 3½	5.1	27.2	1.5
1818	1162	Norsk Hydro	1400	...	...	2.3	∞
400	312	Paterson Zoch	390 †	...	10.4	3.6	11.9
395	308	-do- 'A'	381 †	...	10.4	3.6	11.6
268	111	Plysu	235	..	4.5	2.6	18.8
138½	70½	Porvair	131	..	..	3.4	12.6
417	303	Rentokil	349 †	− 3	..	1.6	22.4
17	4½	Sutcliffe Speak	7	− ½	...	...	...
364	204	Wardle Storeys	359	...	16.0	3.9	16.6
20	9	Wentworth♦	9	...	0.1	1.5	...
320	215	Wolstnhlme R	313	...	16.3	7.3	∞
326	163½	Yorks Chem	294 †	...	...	3.3	23.9
242	80	Yule Catto	220	...	4.7	2.8	14.5

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
90	45	Murray Enter	89		.	...	...
4675	3900	NYNEX	4050	−56	..	.	
75	40	Newmark (L)	45	..	...	..	.
46	25	Norbain♦	36		0.7	2.6	9.1
81	37	Northamber	40	.	2.5	8.3	...
18	10	Oceonics	14½	.	...	...	13.7
279	205	Oxford Inst	227	.	4.1	2.4	14.7
195	85	P-E Intern'l	95	..	6.2	10.2	∞
147	37	P & P	37 †		4.3	15.5	13.2
71	43	Peek	57	.	3.4	8.3	∞
201	145	Pegasus♦	159	.	12.1	10.1	7.3
8650	6300	Philips Fn 4%	8650		...	6.6	...
£978	587	-do- Lmp rv	1150	...	..		
365	227	Pifco	345	...	7.7	3.0	15.6
357	194	-do- 'A' Voting	335	...	7.7	3.1	15.1
71	[illegible]	Plasmec♦	51	+ 1	2.5	6.7	∞
111	63	Pressac	77	− 1	2.4	4.2	12.3
180	40	Psion♦	116	− 7	2.4	2.8	...
60	[illegible]	[illegible]	56	+ ½	...	2.4	6.0
58	25	Radius♦	[illegible]	+ 1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
123	45	Real Time♦	[illegible]	..	3.0	5.0	8.3
53	10	Riva♦	10	...	...	...	5.6
450	180	Sage Gp	[illegible]	...	8.0	2.5	16.6
90	41	Scantronic	47	.	2.9	8.4	47.9
135	78	Scholes Grp	100 †	.	5.0	6.7	15.6
499	179	Serna Gp	[illegible]	− 1	2.6	1.6	∞
205	85	Sherwd Cmp♦	195	.	6.0	4.2	∞
42	30	Soundtracks♦	40	...	2.2	7.3	10.4
21	7	Sunleigh Elec♦	8	...			

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1037	518	Barlow Rand	925	−28	...	3.7	13.0
113	23	Barrett (H)	24		2.0	11.1	55.5
69	32½	Baynes (Charles)	52 †	..	1.3	3.5	13.9
149	15	Beaufard	16	..	1.8	15.4	∞
48	5½	Beckenham♦	10½	− 1	3.0	...	2.5
30	23	Bedford (W)♦	23			...	...
525	273	Bespak	512	− 1	.	2.3	24.2
187	106	Bibby (J)	173	.	9.7	7.5	8.7
119	80	Billam (J)	106 †	...	4.2	5.4	5.9
92	28	Bilston Bttrsea♦	35	...	...	...	...
86	37	Birmec Ind	47½	− 1	.	4.2	9.2
41	23	Black Arrow	23	− 1	2.1	12.2	7.8
5	1	Black & Edgtn♦	1				0.1
140	108	Black (Peter)	122	..	2.8	3.1	15.1
97	26	Bluebird Toys♦	97	+ 3	...	...	...
383	211	Bodycote	382	− 1	8.7	3.1	14.0
479	304	Boots	416	− 3	11.6	3.7	16.8
92	69	Booth Inds	71	...	3.2	6.0	4.7
40	20	Boustead	21½	− ½	0.7	4.4	∞
747	407	Bowater	703 †	+ 2	...	4.2	15.5
1839	1042	Bowater Inc	1397 †	...	...	...	...
304	130	Boxmore Intl♦	291	+ 1	6.9	3.2	∞
19	11	Braeway	14½	..	0.5	4.7	27.4
246	169	Brammer	225	+ 2	13.0	7.7	15.8
45	24½	Bridgend Gp	28	...	1.2	5.7	11.3
149	68	Bridon	68	...	4.0	8.0	∞
92	43	Bridport-Gndry	50	...	4.1	11.3	7.1
45	26	Brierley Inv	28	.	...	...	24.3
475	355	Br Bldg & Eng	475	..	0.5	...	..

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
18½	3½	Prospect Inds	15½	...	0.4	3.4	5.8
426	262	Proudfoot Alex	371	...	19.0	6.8	8.0
130	23	RPS Group♦	24 †	...	2.0	11.1	∞
110	70	Radiant Metal	80		...	...	...
79	32½	Ramco Oil♦	32½	− 3	2.0	8.2	12.1
779	548	Rank Org	657	+ 3	31.0	6.3	18.7
111	21	Ransomes	21	..	..	...	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	Reckitt Colm	619	− 4	..	3.3	13.5
14½	4½	Reece	4½	...	0.1	2.8	8.5
76	34	Reed Executive	70	...	0.6	...	...
289	147	Reliance Sec♦	236	...	8.4	4.7	12.8
154	117	Relyon	144	− 4	4.9	4.6	∞
325	222	Renishaw	265	− 1	6.0	3.0	18.1
78	46	Renold	59	...	3.7	..	14.3
25	8	Rentokil♦	8	...	...	...	...
1226	673	Reuters	1109 †	−14	17.0	2.0	∞
34½	25	Rexmore	26	...	2.2	11.5	6.5
121	83	Ricardo Ind	83	− 4	5.7	9.4	11.4
95	66	Richard (Leics)	73	...	4.4	8.0	6.1
60	31	Richardson West	53	− 2	2.9	7.5	∞
51	7	Robinson (T)	26	..	4.0	...	5.4
205	143	Rolfe & Nolan	185	− 5	5.6	4.0	10.4
142	112	Ropner	112	− 3	8.2	9.8	8.2
136	102	-do- 'A'	102	− 3	8.2	10.8	7.5
60	22½	Ross Gp	38	...	...	0.5	...
314	166	Rotork	306	− 1	10.0	4.4	∞
99	72	Russell (A)	84	+ 1	2.1	3.4	15.4
18	10	SEP Indl♦	16	...	0.2	1.7	∞
1200	618	SKF 'B'	1037	−50	..	4.0	∞

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
5	2	[illegible]	2½	..			
34	12	Teredo♦	12				
114	28	Triton Europe	31	.			7.0
197	102	Woodside	165	...		1.3	50.8
7	1½	XCL Sunrise	2½		...		

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
148	76	API	148			6.5	43.0
21	10	ATA Selection♦	10½	...	1.0	12.7	
292	168	Arjo Wiggins	225 †	+ 2	...	4.9	12.0
397	175	Abbott Mead	394	− 1	8.4	2.9	∞
9	1	Acsis Group	1	...	—	..	
14½	8½	Addison Cons	11 †	−	..	1.8	∞
244	100	Aegis Gp	105	.	5.8	7.7	∞
177	85	Aspen Comm♦	105	..	4.9	6.4	∞
25	10	BBB Design♦	10				
116	76	BNB Res	85	...	4.9	7.7	∞
230	110	Bemrose	206	+ 1	11.7	7.9	∞
78	29	Birkdale	40	...	...	...	...
108	54	Bunzl	90	+ 1	4.0	6.1	∞
166	83	CIA Gp	154 †	...	3.7	3.2	∞
58	35	City of Lon♦	42	...	3.0	9.8	9.1
75	4	Clarke Hooper♦	4½	...	4.4	...	1.6
108	31	Colorgraphic	32	...	0.0	...	...
2½	1½	Creston Lodge♦	2				
191	123	Cropper (James)	171	− 2	2.9	2.3	16.8
60	22	Crown Eagle♦	24	...	...	...	...
53	30	Delyn Packaging	33	...	1.3	5.9	7.7
163	81	Dolphin Pack	127	...	4.5	4.8	∞
107	80	Dudley Jenkins♦	81	...	4.0	6.0	34.5
138	92	EW Fact♦	103	..	4.3	5.8	∞

WATER

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
409	308½	Anglian Water	312	− 2	17.5	7.5	0.4
407	327	Northumbrian	348	− 1	18.6	7.1	4.5
395	322	North West	312	+ 3	18.0	7.2	5.9
370	296	Severn Trent	304	+ 3	17.5	7.7	4.7
397	293	Sthrn Water	310	− 4	17.7	7.6	5.2
392	302	South West	336	− 4	20.8	7.9	5.1
397	323	Thames Water	333	− 2	17.5	7.0	6.8
422	341	Welsh Water	351	− 2	19.5	7.4	4.2
456	325	Wessex Water	383	− 1	17.7	6.2	6.1
431	335	Yorkshire W	354	+ 5	17.7	6.7	6.4

Source: Finsat

♦ USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ‡ Ex rights issue; § Ex all; ¶ Ex capital distribution; ∞ Figures or report awaited; ... No significant data.

Cup history unlikely to repeat itself

Bath will have an extra incentive to win at Kingsholm

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

WE HAVE been here before. Three years ago Bath went to Gloucester in the semi-finals of the Pilkington Cup and won 6-3; on the same day Harlequins were losing 16-7, on their own ground, to Leicester, and thus let slip the title which now they hold once more.

It would, though, be a brave man who put money on the same thing happening today. Bath know exactly what waits for them at Kingsholm from a Gloucester side buoyed by the recovery of all but one of their five casualties of a week ago, the exception being at hooker where they can bring Kevin Dunn, a B cap, in to replace John Hawker, who has a dislocated shoulder.

Harlequins, too, are significantly stronger than three years ago, even without the injured Jason Leonard and Andrew Harriman. As predicted they have introduced Troy Coker at lock, moved Richard Langhorn to No. 8 but retained David Pears at stand-off half, ahead of the promising but inexperienced Paul Challinor.

Form suggests a Bath-Harlequins final, which would be a novelty since these two giants of the contemporary English game have not met at Twickenham. But Bath, winners over Gloucester in the League by 29-9 in February at home, know the dangers of going to Gloucester as favourites; they will be sustained by the desire to win the cup, however, in case their league title goes to Orrell, who must be champions if they win their remaining three matches.

The England selectors will watch with particular interest the confrontation at stand-off half between Neil Matthews and Stuart Barnes. The B party to tour New Zealand will be announced in nine days' time and there is every prospect of Barnes, the old hand, captaining the tour and Matthews, the youngster, travelling as his deputy. Matthews knows that he is one of several who might be chosen. But he has sustained his form throughout the season where others have not.

One of his rivals, Gerry Ainscough, will be playing for Leicester at the Stoop, where he failed to make an impression a week ago as Leicester slipped to a 20-13 league defeat. On that occasion Leicester lacked bite in midfield and were unable to bring their speedy wings, Tony Underwood and Steve Hackney, into play; they scored all but three of their points with the game long gone. Whether they can do that better today may depend upon how well Darren Grewcock can come to terms with the occasion. He replaces the injured Aadel Kardooni at scrum half while, to their in-form players, Harlequins have been able to add Coker, the Australian who returned to this country on Monday.


Coker: a timely return

Will Carling, the England captain, was the first to agree that Coker's is a huge physical presence and Leicester were troubled last week to pull down the big Harlequins forwards.

None the less, in four previous cup meetings, Harlequins have yet to win and they will expect as hard an encounter as Nottingham gave them at this stage last season, in a game which went to extra time. Gloucester and Bath have played five cup games, Gloucester winning the first two, in 1972 and 1973, and Bath the more recent encounters, notably the 1990 final when they positively wiped the floor with their West Country rivals. That meeting, too, may remain in Gloucester minds today.

GLOUCESTER: T Smith; J Penina, D Casles, D Cummins, S Morris; N Matthews, M Hannaford; P Jones, K Dunn, R Phillips, P Ashmead, N Sorvana, D Sims, I Smith, S Masters.
BATH: J Webb; A Swift, P de Glanville, J Guscott, J Fallon; S Barnes, R Hill; G Chilcott, G Dawe, V Ubogu, D Egerton, M Haag, N Redman, A Robinson, B Clarke.
HARLEQUINS: S Threlfall; M Wedderburn, S Halliday, W Carling, G Thompson; D Pears, R Glenister; M Hobley, B Moore, A Mullins, M Skinner, N Edwards, T Coker, P Winterbottom, R Langhorn.
LEICESTER: J Liley; T Underwood, I Sales, L Boyle, R Underwood; G Ainscough, D Grewcock; S Redfern, C Tressler, D Garforth, J Wells, M Johnson, M Poole, N Back, D Richards.

Wells to inspire the will to shock

By David Hands

When John Wells says of his forwards that "we are not feared but on our day we can give everyone a good game", he is merely the latest in a long line of Leicester captains to express greater confidence in his colleagues than critics from outside Welford Road are wont to do.

Eleven years ago, Leicester went into a cup final against Gosforth with their pack written off; they achieved the most satisfying of their three successive cup victories, but that is only the most extreme example of the Tigers showing what they have in their tank when it matters most. Today, though, the fuel will need to be premium if they are to reach another final against the present holders of the Pilkington Cup, Harlequins.

Wells needs no reminding. He has been part of unconsidered Leicester sides for the last ten years and speaks with some affection of the "Leicester system" which may not create glamorous players, in the way Harlequins do, but does produce effective teams, replete with those who are not necessarily the most talented performers but who make up for their deficiencies with hard work and a pride in the position Leicester occupy in English rugby.

"It's a question of whether we can do the graft and overcome what Harlequins have to offer," he says. "They will show a lot more than they did in the league match last week but I think we will too. They did dominate in an area which is important — the lineout — and if we can negate that it will make the contest more even."

But Wells, aged 28, has been down the same road before, notably in the 1989 final when, against Bath's galaxy of England players, Leicester clung on before going down to a very late try by Stuart Barnes and a 10-6 defeat. His skills have been acknowledged with six England B appearances in 1988-9, a place in an England XV against Italy in 1990, and a final trial appearance in 1988 when he was in the back row of a senior side which lost 13-7 to the Rest and was overtaken by one of today's opponents, Mickey Skinner.

In an era when selectors have tended to look for taller men on the blind side, Wells's lack of inches (he is 6ft 1in) may have counted against him but no one on the club circuit discounts his worth, his ability on the ground when the boots are flying, his strength in the tackle.

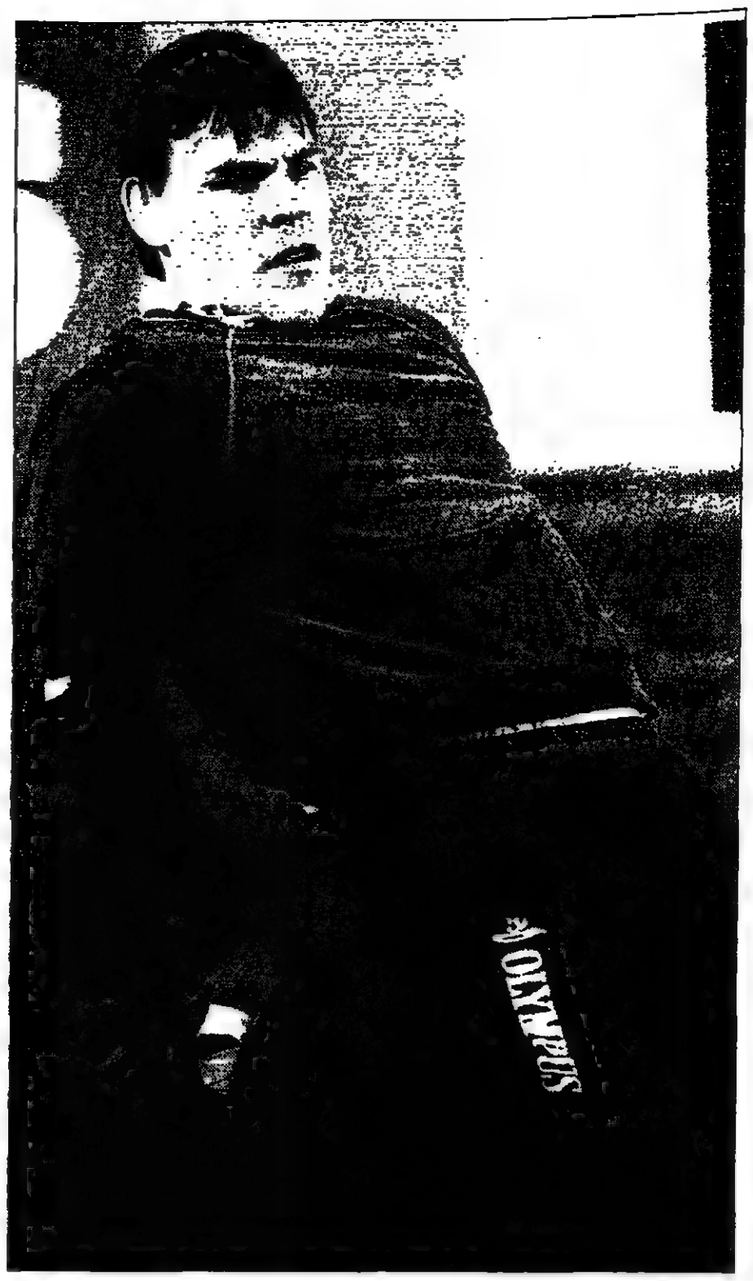
It is to Leicester's benefit that they have such a genuine competitior at the helm at a time of reconstruction which has, nevertheless, seen them lead the first division at one stage and challenge for a seventh Twickenham final.

"The people we have now will form the nucleus of Leicester teams for the next five, possibly ten, years," he said. "We are fashioning these young lads into the sort of teams Leicester have always managed with. There have been some good individuals in Leicester sides in the last 12 years or so but always there have been nine or ten good, solid club performers who have come through the system.

"We have been fortunate in the cup that the teams we have met, even though all our games have been away, have been second division or lower. It came as a pleasant surprise that we were able to win our home league games but our aim has to be to take on the big four, who have beaten us in the league — Bath, Gloucester, Orrell and Harlequins — and beat them on their own ground. Then we will know we are making progress.

"We are a little bit off that at the moment but since Dean Richards and Rory [Underwood] have been back we have started to play a little bit. We have cream out wide these days, rather than in midfield where it used to be, and we must aim to use it."

This year Leicester set themselves no target beyond survival in the first division, which is assured. Far more important to them is player-development: "We want to bring lads in and get them to gell as a team," Wells said, "so that in the next few years we can have a go at the major honours." For Leicester the future has always been more than just one game.


Captain at the helm: Leicester's team is full of reliable men such as Wells

YACHTING

Big-race protest rejected by jury

From Bob Ross in San Diego

NEW Zealand, which crossed the line just one second ahead of Il Moro di Venezia in the America's Cup challenger eliminations semi-finals here yesterday, had the win taken away by the umpires, who ruled that the yacht had touched the finishing buoy. New Zealand's crew denied this and protested to the international jury, which backed the umpires.

The controversy came at the end of a great race. Il Moro di Venezia, skippered by Paul Cayard, gained the lead nine minutes after the start by heading off to the left (looking into the wind) side of the course and into slightly more pressure in the ten-knot breeze. But New Zealand stayed close and was faster on the third windward beat, with the breeze up to 13 knots, to round the last mark only 13 seconds behind.

Instead, Cayard and his crew chased stronger pressure in the breeze and position on the course to come back at New Zealand on the right-of-way starboard gybe near the finish line. New Zealand, however, slightly favoured by the wind direction, managed to edge past and crossed the line two feet ahead.

In the other semi-final, Nippon (Chris Dickson, Japan) beat Ville de Paris (Marc Pajot, France) by two minutes.

In the defenders' semi-final, Kanza (Bill Koch) proved faster upwind than Dennis Conner's Stars & Stripes to win by 42 seconds.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: Challengers: Nippon (C Dickson, Japan) bt Ville de Paris (M Pajot, Fr), 2min; Il Moro di Venezia (P Cayard, It) bt New Zealand (R Dave), disqualified. Progress points: 1, Il Moro di Venezia, 3pts; equal 2, New Zealand and Ville de Paris, 2; 4, Nippon, 1. Defenders: Kanza (W Koch) bt Stars & Stripes (D Conner), 42sec. Progress points: 1, Kanza, 4pts; 2, Stars & Stripes, 3; 3, America³ (W Koch), 0

One final repeat is enough

By Barry Trowbridge

BRADFORD Salem and Bicester return to Twickenham today for a repeat of last spring's inaugural Provincial Insurance Cup final, but do so in the knowledge that they have become too good to qualify for the competition next season.

Last April, Salem had built up a 17-0 lead before Bicester settled, and only a long stoppage for injury late in the game, during which Salem regrouped, prevented the Oxfordshire side from getting closer than the 17-12 final margin. Simon Grater, the Bicester captain, has other ideas for today. "Last season, they caught us cold," he said. "We seemed content just to have got to Twickenham. This year, we're regarding it more as just a difficult match against Salem; that's the priority."

Assuming the competition becomes firmly established, it would be fitting if Bicester's name was added to the trophy, such has been their contribution to the first two years. Salem, of course, will have other ideas.

Old Boys suffer identity crisis

By Owen Jenkins

PONTYPRIDD might be excused for being rather confused as to which side will be taking the field against them in the Schweppes Cup quarter-finals today.

Will it be Cardiff High School Old Boys or Cardiff Harlequins? The club is the former; the team is the latter.

Traditionally, the club was for former pupils of Cardiff High School but, to attract support and ensure the club flourished, it was decided they would trade as Cardiff Harlequins.

"We are like a limited company, with a trading style, and we mustn't be seen to be a closed shop, which is an impression we gave," Gerry Price, the Old Boys secretary, said.

Andy Martin, the former Cambridge blue and player with Cardiff, Bridgend and Aberavon, plays at centre today. He is an Old Boy himself and supports the Harlequins initiative.

"Although the Harlequins title is slightly tongue in cheek, the High School did originally play on the Harlequins ground," he said. "We were looking for a name to break down the barriers to open up the club.

"It is one of the most positive steps the club has taken, along with its commitment to the continuity of its youth policy over the last two years. The club very much wants to be affiliated with the school but we have to attract players from farther afield."

Harlequins should provide Pontypridd with formidable opposition. They accounted for Abertillery, of the Heineken League second division, 17-0 in the last round.

They are one point away from qualifying for the fourth division of the Heineken League and registered a record 94-6 win in their district league earlier this season.

"We play a fast-moving, ball-spinning style of play and our strength is in our backs," Price said. "We don't mind what we are called as long as it's respectful."

In the other quarter-finals, **Llanelli**, the holders, play **Pontypool** in a repeat of last year's final, **Dunvant**, of the second division, take on their neighbours, **Swansea**, and **Bridgend** travel to **Newport**.

The next World Cup is casting a shadow

From David Chappell in Hong Kong

MERE mention of the words World Cup here is guaranteed to provoke a reaction. For the thousands of supporters arriving for the world's premier seven-a-side tournament this weekend, they conjure memories of the gathering of rugby union clans in grounds around the five nations last October: to the organisers they have an entirely different ring.

One legacy of the Rugby World Cup last year was a compression of the domestic season and its effect has been felt here on the Cathay Pacific Hongkong Bank invitation sevens. Will Carling and Jeremy Guscott, who were in the Barbarians side which lost in the final last year, will not be in Hong Kong trying to go one better: instead they will be playing for their clubs in the Pilkington Cup semi-finals.

Perhaps more worrying for those who run this tournament is the arrival in the calendar of the seven-a-side World Cup next year in Scotland. Like its 15-a-side counterpart it will be played every four years. But coming as it does in April, it will inevitably overshadow Hong Kong in 1993.

Gavin Hastings, who captains the Barbarians on his Hong Kong debut, is disappointed that the Scots, who have a particular tradition in the sevens game, have not taken the opportunity to field a team as part of their build-up to next year. New Zealand, however, have taken the chance to blood olayers who they hope will re-establish the All Blacks as the world's best.

Tim Horan and Jason Little, in the absence of Campese and Lynagh, have the responsibility of leading Australia's challenge. Fiji, winners for the last two years, promise much again while the Barbarians, despite unavailabilities, are dark horses. They have called in Harvey Thorneycroft, of Northampton, as a late replacement for the injured Stark.

HOCKEY

Murray's fitness in doubt

By Sydney Friskin

AN ENTHRALLING match is in prospect tomorrow when Old Kingstonians meet Oxford Hawks at Ditton Fields for one of the two remaining places in the second division of the Pizza Express National League next season.

Both sides are strong in attack, Oxford Hawks relying as much on Silman as Old Kingstonians do on Porter to get goals. Old Kingstonians, however, have an injury problem and will have to decide whether Murray, a resourceful inside forward, is fit.

Brooklands are at home to **Taunton Vale**, who are trying to return to the National League after relegation from the second division.

They face no easy task against a skilful Brooklands side for which Skates and Reynolds combine well up front, supported to good effect by Rennison.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

3.0 unless stated

Barclays League First division
Chelsea v West Ham
Coventry v Arsenal
Crystal Palace v Everton
Luton v Wimbledon
Manchester City v Leeds Utd (2.0)
Nottm Forest v Sheffield Wed
Sheffield Utd v Oldham
Southampton v QPR
Tottenham v Aston Villa

Second division
Barnsley v Derby County
Bristol City v Leicester City
Cambridge Utd v Millwall
Charlton v Plymouth
Grimsby v Bristol Rovers
Middlesbro v Watford
Newcastle v Tranmere
Oxford v Wolves
Southend v Ipswich
Swindon v Port Vale

Third division
Birmingham v Reading
Bradford v Preston
Brentford v Shrewsbury
Bury v Hull
Exeter v Huddersfield
Leyton Orient v Hartlepool
Swansea v Fulham
Torquay v Stockport
West Bromwich v Bolton

Fourth division
Barnet v Northampton
Blackpool v Mansfield
Chesterfield v York
Crewe v Burnley (all ticket)
Hereford v Rotherham
Maidstone v Scunthorpe
Rochdale v Cardiff
Scarborough v Gillingham

GM Vauxhall Conference
Bath v Barrow
Boston Utd v Altrincham
Farnborough v Wycombe
Kettering v Gateshead
Redbridge v Merthyr
Runcorn v Yeovil
Slough v Northwich
Stafford v Kidderminster
Telford v Cheltenham

Vauxhall FA Trophy Semi-finals, first leg
Colchester v Macclesfield
Witton v Marine

Tennents Scottish Cup Semi-final
Airdrie v Hearts (at Hampden Park)

B and Q Scottish League Premier division
Dundee Utd v St Johnstone
Dunfermline v Aberdeen
Falkirk v Celtic
Hibernian v Motherwell

First division
Clydebank v Ayr Utd
Forfar v Raith R
Kilmarnock v Partick
Meadowbank v Dundee
Montrose v Stirling A
Morton v Hamilton

Second division
Albion R v Cowdenbeath
Berwick v Stenhsmuir
Brechin v Arbroath
Clyde v Alloa
East Fife v Dumbarton
E Stirling v Stranraer
Queen of South v Queen's Park

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Basingstoke; Bishop's Stortford v Carshalton; Bognor v Chesham Utd; Enfield v Wokingham; Hendon v St Albans; Kingstonian v Hayes; Marlow v Bromley; Staines v Grays; Sutton Utd v Harrow; Windsor and Eton v Woking; Wivenhoe v Dagenham. First division: Boreham Wood v Abingdon Town; Croydon v Dulwich; Harlow v Wembley; Heybridge Swifts v Chalfont St Peter; Hitchin v Uxbridge; Leyton-Wingate v Whyteleafe; Maidenhead Utd v Stevenage; Molesey v Aveley; Tooting and Mitcham v Walton and Hersham Reading v Dorking. Second division: Banstead v Witham; Barton Rovers v Southwick; Billericay v Egham; Hemel Hempstead v Raunham; Lewes v Hungerford; Metropolitan Police v Ruislip Manor; Newbury v Ware; Purfleet v Leatherhead; Saffron Walden v Malden Vale; Southall v Berkhamsted; Worthing v Harefield. Third division: Bracknell v Epsom and Ewell; Collier Row v Cove; Eastbourne v Kingsbury; Edgware v Thame; Flackwell Heath v Horsham; Hampton v Royston; Hertford v Feltham and Hounslow; Petersfield v Hanchurch; Tilbury v Camberley; Tring v Clapton.
HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland v Bangor City; Emley v Southport; Gainsborough v Fleetwood; Harwich v Leek; Morecambe v Shepshed Albion; Moreley v Matlock; Whitley Bay v Stalybridge. First division: Bridlington Town v Radcliffe Borough; Colwyn Bay v Guiseley; Congleton v Warrington; Eastwood Town v Caernarfon; Harrogate v Winsford; Knowsley v Alfreton; Lancaster City v Worksop; Netherfield v Newtown, Rhyl v Farsley Celtic; Rossendale v Curzon Ashton
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Cambridge City; Bashley v Moor Green, Chelmsford v Dover; Corby v Bromsgrove; Dorchester v Dartford; Fisher v Wealdstone, Gravesend and Northfleet v Crawley; Poole v Halesowen; Trowbridge v Gloucester; Wealdstone v Worcester. Midland division: Barry v Bilston; Bridgnorth v Nuneaton, Hednesford v Dudley; Hinckley v RC Warwick; King's Lynn v Bedworth; Leicester Utd v Alvechurch; Rushden v Yate, Solihull v Redditch, Stroud v Grantham; Tamworth v Stourbridge. Southern division: Ashford v Weymouth; Braintree v Newport IOW; Buckingham v Erith and Belvedere; Canterbury v Burnham; Fareham v Dunstable, Gosport v Bury; Hastings v Salisbury; Havant v Sittingbourne; Hythe v Baldock; Margate v Andover; Sudbury v Witney
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Aston Villa v Newcastle (2.0); Manchester Utd v Blackburn (2.0).
NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: Ipswich v Millwall; Portsmouth v Southampton (2.0).
BASS IRISH CUP: Semi-final: Crusaders v Linfield (at The Oval).
BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Galway v Derry (5.0).
BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR v Darwen; Bacup v Prescot; Blackpool Rovers v Mossley Road (Man); Clitheroe v Vauxhall GM, Nantwich v Fixton; Penrith v Bootle, Skelmersdale v Bradford Park Avenue, Lamor Pils Trophy: Cheadle v Atherton Collieries; Newcastle Town v Chadderton.
GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Frome v Exmouth; Liskeard v Clevedon; Mangotsfield v Chard; Ottery St Mary v Dawlish, Saltash v Chippenham; Tiverton v Paulton; Torrington v Bristol Manor Farm, Welton v Minehead; Weston-super-Mare v Elmore.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Brantham v Newmarket; Brightlingsea v Lowestoft; Clacton v Chatteris; Great Yarmouth v Walsoch, Halstead v Stowmarket; Harwich and Parkeston v Norwich Utd; Haverhill v Felixstowe; Histon v Tiptree; March v Gorleston, Wisbech v Thetford; Wroxham v Cornard.
ABACUS WELSH LEAGUE: National division: Briton Ferry v Bridgend, Ebbw Vale v Aberystwyth; Haverfordwest v Ton Pentre; Llanelli v Cwmbran; Ferndale v Maesteg
NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Brandon v Gretna; Consett v Shildon, Easington Colliery v Tow Law, Ferryhill v Blyth Spartans, Langley Park Welfare v Billingham Synthonia; Northallerton v Murton; West Auckland v Guisborough; Whitby v Seaham Red Star
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Denaby; Belper v North Ferriby; Scotchill v Brigg; Glasshoughton Wel v Sheffield; Maltby MW v Liversedge; North Shields v Harrogate RA; Desert Albion v Pontefract Col; Sutton Town v Spennymoor; Winterton Rangers v Thackley.
SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Old Esthamians v Old Parkonians; Old Actonians v West Wickham; Polytechnic v East Barnet OG; Old Salesians v Alexandra Park, Crouch End Vampires v Ibis; Old Stationers v Southgate Olympic, Broomfield v Lloyds Bank, South Bank Poly v Barclays Bank, Old Westminster Citizens v Old Lyonians; Royal Bank v Merton; Bank of England v Kew Association; Cusco v Old Latymerians.
ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Final: Old Chigwellians v Old Etonians.
OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning v Glyn, Chertsey v Enfield, Civil Service v Old Meadonians; Old Bromleians v Old Tonbridgians; Old Danes v Old Aloysians; Old Ignatians v Latymer.
SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: First division: Nettleborough v Parkfield, Old Finchleians v Mill Hill Village; Old Owens v Old Parmiterians, St Mary's College v Old Beaconians, Wilson v Southgate County.
UNIVERSITY MATCH: Cambridge v Oxford (at Craven Cottage, 11.0).
SCHOOLS UNDER-18 INTERNATIONAL: Wales v Republic of Ireland (at Nighton FC)

RUGBY UNION

3.0 unless stated

Pilkington Cup Semi-finals
Gloucester v Bath
Harlequins v Leicester

Schweppes Welsh Cup Quarter-finals
Dunvant v Swansea (2.30)
Newport v Bridgend (2.30)
Pontypool v Llanelli (2.30)
Pontypridd v Cardiff HSOB (2.30)

Courage Clubs Championship First division
Nottingham v Rosslyn Park

Second division
Bedford v Waterloo
Moseley v Sale

Third division
Broughton Park v Sheffield

Fourth division north
Durham City v Lichfield
Walsall v Stourbridge

McEwan's Scottish League Second division
Kirkcaldy v Dundee HSFP P

Provincial Insurance Cup Final
Bicester v Bradford Salem (at Twickenham)

Club matches
Bristol v London Scottish
Coventry v Clifton
Edinburgh Wndrs v Ayr
Headingley v Northampton
London Irish v Basingstoke
L Welsh v Glamorgan Wndrs (2.30)
Lydney v Cross Keys
Maesteg v Ebbw Vale
Morley v Harrogate
Neath v Blackheath (2.30)
Orrell v Vale of Lune
Plymouth Albion v Exeter
Preston G v Liverpool St H
Richmond v Sth Wales Police
Salisbury v High Wycombe
Saracens v Askeans
Stroud v Metropolitan Police
Wasps v Cardiff

DAILY MAIL SCHOOLS CUPS (at Twickenham): Finals: Under-15: London Oratory v Skinners (12.0). Under-18: Bradford GS v Mount St Mary's (11.15).

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Warrington v St Helens (2.05).

HOCKEY

UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-finals: Cheshire v Nottinghamshire (Brooklands HC, 1.45), Essex v Royal Air Force (Chelmer Park, 3.30).

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division (7.30). Derby Bucks v Worthing Bears; Birmingham Bullets v Cheshire Jets, Leicester Riders v Manchester Giants; Thames Valley Tigers v Sunderland Saints; Hemel Hempstead Royals v Kingston (8.0) Second division (7.30): Broxbourne v Barnsley Generals; Oldham Celtics v Greenwich, Plymouth Raiders v Ware Women. First division (6.0): London Central YMCA v Sheffield Hatters; Rhondda v Hemel Hempstead; Thames Valley v Leicester (5.15)

VOLLEYBALL

ROYAL BANK NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Team Mizuno Malory v Polonia Ealing; Reebok Liverpool City v Speedwell Rucanor, Wessex v Aquila; Hilton Leeds v Newcastle (Stafs) VC; Coventry Rige v Manchester Utd. Women: First division: Trafford Volleyball v Birmingham; Dynamo London v Hilton Leeds, Southgate v Wessex; Woolwich Brixton v Britannia Music.

LACROSSE

PEAK SPORTS-BRINE NORTH LEAGUE: Sheffield University v Mellor; Timperley v Old Waconians; Ashton v Stockport.

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: English national championships (Melton Mowbray).
BOXING: European light-welterweight championship: Pat Barrett (Manchester, holder) v Valery Kayumba (Fr) (in Paris)
CYCLING: West Suffolk 25 (Risby, 2.0), St Ives 10 (Little Paxton, 4.0); N Hants RC 10 (Aldermaston, 2.30); Eastern Counties RA 10 (Braintree, 3.0).
GOLF: Central England men's foursomes (Woodhall Spa GC, Lincolnshire)
GYMNASTICS: Daily Mirror championships (NIA, Birmingham).
ROWING: University Boat Race, Oxford v Cambridge (Putney to Mortlake, 2.35).
RALLYING: Cumbria international rally (Carlisle).
SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Co Kildare).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

FA Cup Semi-finals
Liverpool v Portsmouth (1.0) (at Highbury, all ticket)
Sunderland v Norwich City (3.30) (at Hillsborough, all ticket)

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Athlone v Sligo (3.30), Bohemians v Drogheda (3.30), Cork City v St Patrick's Athletic (3.0), Dundalk v Shelbourne (3.30); Shamrock v Bray Wanderers (3.30)
FA SUNDAY CUP: Final: Thesis (Reading SL) v Marston Sports (Wolverhampton SL) (at Reading FC, 3.0)

RUGBY UNION

Women's RU Cup Final
Richmond v Saracens (at Blackheath RFC, 2.30)

MAZDA KENT CUP: Final: Old Colfeians v Westcombe Park (at Gravesend, 3.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP (3.0 unless stated) First division: Bradford v Wakefield, Featherstone v Wigan (6.15); Hull KR v Leeds (3.15); Swinton v Hull, Widnes v Salford. Second division: Leigh v Rochdale (3.30); Oldham v Workington; Ryedale-York v London Crusaders (3.15); Sheffield v Carlisle (3.15). Third division: Bramley v Batley (3.30); Highfield v Doncaster; Huddersfield v Barrow (3.30); Hunslet v Dewsbury (3.30). Keighley v Whitehaven (3.15).

HOCKEY

INTER-LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS: Old Kingstonians v Oxford Hawks (Kingston GS, 2.0). Brooklands v Taunton Vale (Brooklands HC, Sale, 1.45)

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG LEAGUE: Men: First division: London Towers v Kingston (6.0); Sunderland Saints v Manchester Giants (7.0) Second division (4.0). Brixton Topcats v Bury Lobos; Cardiff Buccaneers v Middlesboro Mohawks; Doncaster Eagles v Coventry Flyers. Women: First division: Brixton Lady Topcats v Nottingham Wildcats (2.0); London Jets v Ipswich (4.0). Northampton 76ers v Thames Valley (3.30); Leicester v Rhondda (2.0).

VOLLEYBALL

ROYAL BANK NATIONAL LEAGUE: Women: First division: Trafford Volleyball v Birmingham; Dynamo London v Hilton Leeds; Southgate v Wessex; Woolwich Brixton v Britannia Music.

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: English national championships (Melton Mowbray).
CYCLING: Archer RC grand prix (107 miles) (Haslemere, Bucks, 11.0); Oxonian 25 (Launton, 8.0), East Dorset 25 (Wimborne, 7.30), Haverhill Wheelers 20 (Haverhill, 10.0); King's Lynn two-up 25 (Fakenham, 9.0).
GOLF: Central England men's foursomes (Woodhall Spa GC, Lincolnshire).
GYMNASTICS: Daily Mirror championships (NIA, Birmingham)
SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Co Kildare).

YACHTING

Big-race protest rejected by jury

FROM BOB ROSS IN SAN DIEGO

HOCKEY

Murray's fitness in doubt

The Times guide to the Grand National: fences controversy on eve of race

Murphy makes own protest over fences

BY MICHAEL SEELY

FERDIE Murphy, the trainer of Sibton Abbey, who unseated Adrian Maguire in the Perrier Jouet Novices' Chase at Liverpool yesterday, has withdrawn Fiddle A Little from today's Chivas Regal Amateur Riders' Chase, also run over the controversial Mildmay fences.

Murphy said: "The problem is that they built the fences to the maximum height of 4ft 8in. They are just like cement walls. If the horses brush the top, which chasers will do, especially in three-mile races, they balloon and just cannot get the landing gear out."

David Nicholson, the trainer of Gambling Royal, who unseated Richard Dunwoody at the same fence, agreed. "The fences are not correctly built. They are too straight and stiff and not sloped at all. And they should be rounded at the top."

Defending his position, John Parrett, the clerk of the course, said: "This is a grade one track, these are championship races and the fences are there to be jumped. It is always difficult to get the balance exactly right. Last year they were a little soft and it was suggested we should stiffen them up.

"The bold horses have been jumping well here. I think we've seen a few horses today going a bit too quick."


Gifford: thought fences were a bit too stiff

Josh Gifford, the trainer of Bradbury Star who just got the better of Jodami after a thrilling affair for the Mumm Mildmay Novices' Chase, said: "I have to agree that they are a little bit too stiff. But we mustn't forget that this is the first time they have ever been raced over."

Bradbury Star will now be trained for next season's King George VI Chase at Kempton. Remittance Man also has the Boxing Day spectacular as his long-term target after winning the Mumm Melling Chase in spectacular fashion for Dunwoody and Nicky Henderson.

Jack Sound ready to defy penalty

POINT-TO-POINT BY BRIAN BEEL

JACK Sound, a progressive six-year-old can defy a 7lb penalty to win the third division of The Times Championship qualifier at the **Monmouthshire** point-to-point today.

The main opposition to this dual winner is likely to come from Equity Player, already qualified for the final by his victory at the Tanatside.

With 109 entries, the race has been split three ways. Sam's Heritage, another who has his ticket booked for Towcester, could take division one, where Northern Quay and I'veseengold should both go well.

The middle division looks a hard one to win, but the changed regulations are in favour of King Sear.

He won a maiden and a restricted in 1989 and came back to racing between the flags, after an unsuccessful spell under Rules, to land the North Ledbury hunt race.

At the **Spooners and West Dartmoor**, Buckoak may win the second of the two Times races. He looked to be in command when blundering his chance away at the last fence in the Dart Vale members' event.

Having run second in his last two outings, Moorcroft Boy deserves a change of fortune in division one.

General's Boy looks sure to justify his position as favourite for the Landrover qualifier at the **Haydon**, as does Carl's Choice in the equivalent race at the **East Essex**.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Blackmore and Sparkford, Kingweston, two miles east of Somerton (first race, 12.00); Blankney: Thorpe Lodge, 4m SW of Newark on Trent (1.45); Bramham Moor: Wetherby racecourse (1.45); East Essex, Marks Tey, 5m W of Colchester (2.00); Haydon, Corbridge, 5m N of town (1.30); Monmouthshire, Llanvapley, 4m E of Abergavenny (1.45); Southdown and Eridge, Heathfield, 1m east of town (2.00); Spooners and West Dartmoor, Cherrybrook, 2m N of Tavistock (1.30).

LIVERPOOL

MANDARIN
1.45 Easy Buck.
2.20 Last 'O' The Bunch.
3.05 Morley Street.
4.00 *COOL GROUND* (nap).
4.55 The Red One.
5.30 Thetford Forest.

THUNDERER
1.45 Flakey Dove.
2.20 Katabatic.
3.05 Morley Street.
4.00 *DOCKLANDS EXPRESS* (nap).
4.55 Castle King.
5.30 Thetford Forest.

RICHARD EVANS
1.45 Galaxy High.
4.00 Stay On Tracks.
5.30 *THETFORD FOREST* (nap).

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.00 COOL GROUND.

GOING: GOOD (MILDMAY & HURDLE COURSES) GOOD TO SOFT (GRAND NATIONAL) SIS

1.45 CORDON BLEU HANDICAP HURDLE

BBC1

(£11,414: 2m) (14 runners)

101	221221	DAWSON CITY 21 (D,F,S) (G Shouler) M H Easterby 5-11-10	L Mullaney (7)	91
102	111112	RODEO STAR 28 (D,F,G,S) (J Bradbury) N Tinkler 6-11-3	G McCourt	94
103	252135	EGYPT MILL PRINCE 28 (D,F,S) (S Webb) Mrs J Pitman 6-10-11	M Pitman	95
104	11-451U	ONEUPMANSHIP 28 (D,G,S) (D Watson) D Elsworth 7-10-6	A Procter (7)	● 99
105	0-4132F	LARNACA 23 (D,S) (W Mathews) B Kelly (Ire) 5-10-5	C Swan	93
106	410F43	VIKING FLAGSHIP 23 (D,F,S) (Roach Foods Ltd) D Nicholson 5-10-4	R Dunwoody	94
107	112202	CHEERFUL TIMES 7 (D,G,S) (M Sturgess) B McMahon 9-10-4	T Wall	96
108	16FP-64	VILLA RECOS 29 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-4	M Bowlby	87
109	1230-15	BOTTLES 35 (D,F,S) (Victoria Hotel, Lowestoft) J Banks 6-10-3	P Niven	83
110	2-13423	MONDAY CLUB 94 (D,F,G) (J Tuck) J Tuck 8-10-1	S McNeill	92
111	6-11243	EASY BUCK 84 (D,G,S) (The Burford District Laundry Co Ltd) N Gaselee 5-10-0	C Maude	97
112	3-12121	FLAKEY DOVE 7 (D,F,G,S) (J Price) R Price 6-10-0 (7ex)	D Tegg	94
113	222121	GALAXY HIGH 16 (D,G,S) (R Hughes) P Leach 5-10-0	L Wyer	90
114	U00523	ROYAL ILLUSION 28 (CD,G,S) (J Lohman) G Moore 8-10-0	M Dwyer	77

Long handicap: Easy Buck 9-13, Flakey Dove 9-13, Galaxy High 9-8, Royal Illusion 8-11.

BETTING: 7-1 Cheerful Times, Flakey Dove, Galaxy High, 8-1 Easy Buck, Rodeo Star, Viking Flagship, 10-1 Egypt Mill Prince, Larnaca, Monday Club, 12-1 Dawson City, 14-1 Oneupmanship, 20-1 Bottles, 25-1 Villa Recos, 50-1 Royal Illusion

1991: IVORS GUEST 5-10-0 C Grant (16-1) R Lee 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

DAWSON CITY beat Tyrone Bridge 4l in a 7-runner hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f, soft).
RODEO STAR 2½l 2nd of 10 to King Credo in the Imperial Cup at Sandown (2m, good), with VIKING FLAGSHIP (5lb better off) 5l 4th, EGYPT MILL PRINCE (4lb better off) 1½l 5th and ONEUPMANSHIP unseated rider.
Previously beat CHEERFUL TIMES (13lb better off) ½l in a 6-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m, good to firm), with EASY BUCK (17lb better off) ¾l 3rd and VIKING FLAGSHIP 8l 4th. Previously, beat MONDAY CLUB (14lb better off) 1l in a 13-runner handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m, good). VIKING FLAGSHIP 1½l 3rd of 27 to Dusty Miller in the grade III County Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m, good), with CHEERFUL TIMES tailed-off 20th and LARNACA fell. FLAKEY DOVE beat CHEERFUL TIMES (6lb better off) 2l in an 8-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m, good).
Selection: VIKING FLAGSHIP

2.20 MARTELL AINTREE CHASE LIMITED HANDICAP

BBC1

(Grade II: £18,368: 2m) (6 runners)

201	13-1332	KATABATIC 24 (D,F,G,S) (Pall-mall Partners) A Turnell 9-12-0	S McNeill	97
202	351514	REDUNDANT PAL 24 (B,D,S) (P O'Neill) P Mullins (Ire) 9-11-2	C O'Dwyer	● 99
203	111-325	MASTER RAJH 24 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Glenn) J Chugg 9-11-2	M Lynch	98
204	212231	LAST 'O' THE BUNCH 35 (D,F,G,S) (G Middlebrook) G Richards 8-10-7	N Doughty	97
205	121323	MOMENT OF TRUTH 5F (D,BF,F,G,S) (J Glass) P Monteith 8-10-7	B Storey	88
206	122452	TORANFIELD 23 (D,G,S) (F Lennon) F Lennon (Ire) 8-10-7	—	95

Long handicap: Last 'O' The Bunch 10-3, Moment Of Truth 9-3, Toranfield 9-13

BETTING: 13-8 Katabatic, 100-30 Redundant Pal, 5-1 Toranfield, 13-2 Master Rajh, 8-1 Last 'O' The Bunch, 12-1 Moment Of Truth

1991: BLITZKREIG 8-10-13 T Carmody (4-1 fav) E O'Grady (Ire) 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

KATABATIC 1l 2nd of 6 to Remittance Man in the grade I Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham (2m, good), with REDUNDANT PAL (12lb better off) 6l 4th and MASTER RAJH (12lb better off) 5l 5th. Previously, 7l 2nd of 6 to Pat's Jester in the grade I Newton Chase at Haydock (2m 4f, good). REDUNDANT PAL beat Final Tub 5l in a 6-runner listed chase at Thurles (2m 4f, soft) on penultimate start. MASTER RAJH 6½l 3rd of 6 to Waterloo Boy in the grade II Game Spirit Chase at Newbury (2m 160yd, good) in February, with REDUNDANT PAL (same terms) 7½l 5th. LAST 'O' THE BUNCH beat Henry Mann 4l in a 5-runner chase at Haydock (2m 4f, good to soft). MOMENT OF TRUTH 15l 2nd of 8 to Lacidar in a handicap chase at Newcastle (2m 4f, good) on penultimate start, with LAST 'O' THE BUNCH (4lb better off) 4l 3rd. TORANFIELD 1¼l 2nd of 7 to Repeat The Dose in the Cathcart Chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f, good) chase
Selection: REDUNDANT PAL (nap)

LINGFIELD PARK

MANDARIN
1.40 Pilgrim Bay.
2.10 Beam Me Up Scotty.
2.40 Balla Jidaal.
3.15 First Century.
3.45 Plain Fact.
4.20 Eriny.
4.50 *Sarum.*

THUNDERER
1.40 Ballaindy.
2.10 Alternation.
2.40 Thyer.
3.15 First Century.
3.45 Tauber.
4.20 Eriny.
4.50 Helawe.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 **BALLA JIDAAL (nap).** 3.45 Plain Fact. 4.50 Kay's Dilemma.

GOING: HEAVY (TURF): STANDARD (ALL-WEATHER) SIS
DRAW: HIGH NUMBERS (TURF); LOW (ALL-WEATHER)

1.40 HOLIDAY CLUB PONTINS MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: £2,382: 5f, turf) (9 runners)

1	(1)		BUCK THE TIGER (D Roberts) R Hannon 9-0	A McGlone	—
2	(5)		IRON MERCHANT (C Sparrowhawk Ltd) R Akehurst 9-0	T Quinn	—
3	(3)		PILGRIM BAY (F McNulty) J Berry 9-0	Pat Eddery	—
4	(2)	4	POLITY PRINCE 12 (Mrs S Khan) L Holt 9-0	J Reid	—
5	(8)		ZUNO WARRIOR (V Fatah) G Lewis 9-0	Paul Eddery	—
6	(7)		BALLAINDY (R Wilkins) W G M Turner 8-9	T Sprake (5)	—
7	(4)		CHATWORTH GREY (B Lewis-Ranwell) P Howling 8-9	J Murray	—
8	(6)		DEFENCELESS (N Ahamad) R Hannon 8-9	B Rouse	—
9	(9)		SHEILA'S SECRET (Sherwoods Transport Ltd) W Carter 8-9	N Gwilliams (5)	—

BETTING: 13-8 Pilgrim Bay, 9-2 Polity Prince, 5-1 Iron Merchant, 6-1 Buck The Tiger, 8-1 Defenceless, 12-1 Zuno Warrior, 16-1 Sheila's Secret, 25-1 Chatworth Grey, Ballaindy.

1991: *MACS BUCKAROO 9-0 A Munro (100-30) W O'Gorman 7 ran*

2.10 CHAIR CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,128: 1m 4f, AW) (5 runners)

1	(5)	0030-33	BEAM ME UP SCOTTY 32 (Mrs R Triefus) P Mitchell 8-5	J Williams	88
2	(1)	30-2156	ALTERNATION 12 (C) (R Taylor) P Cole 8-4	T Quinn	● 99
3	(4)	440000-	PERFORATE 142 (M Prescott) M Prescott 8-3	G Duffield	98
4	(3)	00-530	COLOURING BOOK 12 (M Haynes) M Haynes 7-8	D Toole (7)	90
5	(2)	000-0	FINE AS FIVEPENCE 7 (Mrs R Bolt) Mrs A Knight 7-8	F Norton (5)	86

BETTING: 7-4 Alternation, 9-4 Perforate, 11-4 Beam Me Up Scotty, 12-1 ColouringBook, 16-1 Fine As Fivepence

1991: SWEET BUBBLES 7-10 N Adams (10-1) C Cyzer 7 ran

2.40 KENTUCKY DERBY TRIAL STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,308: 1m 2f, AW) (5 runners)

1	(2)	415-	BALLA JIDAAL 184 (F) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Stoute 9-7	Pat Eddery	98
2	(1)	321230-	ROKEBY 161 (G) (P Mellon) I Balding 9-7	J Reid	● 99
3	(3)	1-	THYER 203 (S) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) J Bolger (Ire) 9-7	C Roche	88
4	(4)	5210D2-	HERO'S LIGHT 161 (F) (F Salman) P Cole 9-4	A Munro	76
5	(5)	000455-	FRENI 222 (T Barker) M Usher 8-9	J Williams	54

BETTING: 11-8 Balla Jidaal, 9-4 Thyer, 7-2 Rokeby, 8-1 Hero's Light, 50-1 Freni.

1990: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
J Berry	5	14	35.7	Emma O'Gorman	22	84	26.2
M Prescott	13	43	30.2	G Duffield	26	124	21.0
W O'Gorman	23	93	24.7	T Quinn	32	173	18.5
C Brittain	7	42	16.7	B Raymond	4	22	18.2
Mrs A Knight	6	36	16.7	S O'Gorman	13	73	17.8
C Wildman	8	52	15.4	A Munro	9	51	17.6

3.05 MARTELL AINTREE HURDLE (Grade I: £28,948: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

BBC1

301	043152	BANK VIEW 23 (G,S) (Dale (Bloodstock) Ltd) N Tinkler 7-11-7	G McCourt	89
302	600310	FOREST SUN 25 (D,F,G,S) (Michael Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) G Balding 7-11-7	R Guest	79
303	111-126	MORLEY STREET 25 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Michael Jackson Ltd) G Balding 8-11-7	R Dunwoody	● 99
304	3/01020	PROPERO 25 (D,G,S) (Mrs S Willis) J Gifford 7-11-7	E Murphy	87
305	12-11RU	VALIANT BOY 25 (D,F,S) (R Chadwick) S Kettlewell 6-11-7	Mr S Lyons	87
306	2-22130	MINORETTES GIRL 25 (D,S) (T McKeever) P Mullins (Ire) 7-11-2	—	90

BETTING: 4-7 Morley Street, 7-2 Bank View, 8-1 Forest Sun, 12-1 Minorettes Girl, 14-1 Propero, 33-1 Valiant Boy.

1991: MORLEY STREET 7-11-7 J Frost (11-8 fav) G Balding 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

BANK VIEW 1½l 2nd of 27 to Dusty Miller in the grade III County Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m, good). Previously, 7½l 5th of 16 to Royal Gait in the grade I Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m, good), with MORLEY STREET (same terms) a short head 6th. PROPERO (same terms) 2½l 8th, MINORETTES GIRL (same terms) 3l 9th and VALIANT BOY beaten when unseating rider at the last. FOREST SUN 19l 7th of 17 to Nomadic Way in grade I BonusPrint Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good). Previously, beat Cab On Target 2½l in the 6-runner grade II Rendlesham Hurdle at Kempton (3m, good to firm), and was 5½l 3rd to Fidway at Sandown (2m, good), with BANK VIEW (same terms) 10l 4th.
MORLEY STREET short head 2nd of 9 to Chirkpar in a listed hurdle at Leopardstown (2m, good to yielding) on penultimate start, with MINORETTES GIRL (same terms) ¾l 3rd. Previously, beat King's Curate a neck in the 6-runner grade II Racecall Ascot Hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good).
Selection: MORLEY STREET

4.00 MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL

BBC1

(Handicap: grade III: £99,943: 4m 4f) (40 runners)

FOR RUNNERS AND RIDERS - PAGE 33

4.55 CHIVAS REGAL RIDERS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(Amateurs: £8,033: 2m 4f) (15 runners)

501	031131	PEANUTS PET 17 (F,G,S) (The Ivy Syndicate) T Tate 7-12-0	R Ford (7)	84
502	1F2U11	ERRANT KNIGHT 21 (D,G,S) (Mrs N Bird) M Pipe 8-11-0	M Hourigan (7)	92
503	3/22FU4	THE RED ONE 23 (D,F) (P Haley) P Haley 8-11-0	S Swiers	88
504	11-2242	HOUGHTON 49 (D,G,S) (Lady Manton) M W Easterby 6-10-11	Maj M Watson (7)	91
505	1UP422	CIRCULATION 14 (G) (J Singleton) D McCain 8-10-9	D McCain Jr (7)	92
506	U8F221	RE-RELEASE 21 (D,G,S) (J Ennis) M Pipe 7-10-8	S Murphy (7)	94
507	44-32FP	DAT TRAIN 49 (G,S) (M Oberstein) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-6	J Durkan (3)	84
508	32421F	AMONG FRIENDS 26 (BF,G) (The Rumble Racing Club) G Balding 7-10-6	A Sansome (7)	● 99
509	F14PUP	PAYNIM 7 (F) (Ford Asphalt) M O'Neill 8-10-5	S Lyons (7)	—
510	002211	CASTLE KING 19 (D,F,G) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 6-10-5	A Thornton (7)	91
511	300042	FIDDLE A LITTLE 7 (BF) (G Hubbard) F Murphy 7-10-5	NON-RUNNER	—
512	001308	WAY OF LIFE 22 (G) (T Hemmings) S Mellor 7-10-5	M Armytage	85
513	40025U	CRUISE CONTROL 17 (M Wilmott) M Wilkinson 8-10-5	K Hollowell (7)	78
514	4/P53-P	BE PATIENT MY SON 48 (Miss C Caroe) Miss C Caroe 11-10-5	J Beardsell (7)	—
515	R5U4P0	WINNING DANCER 31 (S) (C Bedser) Miss L Bower 9-10-5	C Bonner (7)	73

BETTING: 5-1 Errant Knight, 11-2 Houghton, 7-1 Castle King, 8-1 Among Friends, Re-Release, 10-1 Peanuts Pet, The Red One, 12-1 Circulation, Dat Train, 14-1 Way Of Life, 20-1 others.

1991: MACARTHUR 6-11-2 S Swiers (7-2 jt-fav) M W Easterby 10 ran

5.30 JANNEAU MERSEY NOVICES HURDLE

(Grade II: £10,598: 2m 4f) (12 runners)

601	111311	THETFORD FOREST 24 (D,F,G,S) (S Manana) D Nicholson 5-11-6	R Dunwoody	● 99
602	0-0362	CHEMIN LE ROI 52 (BF) (Mrs E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-1	M Pitman	84
603	P2-131	COULTON 85 (D,F,S) (M St Quinton) M W Easterby 5-11-1	G McCourt	81
604	21-412	DAGAZ 37 (G) (D Jones) J Edwards 5-11-1	D Tegg	76
605	215125	DEEP HERITAGE 35 (S) (J McManus) A Moore (Ire) 5-11-1	T Taaffe	97
606	531031	OH WHAT 38 (D,G,S) (Mrs P Mullins) P Mullins (Ire) 5-11-1	A Mullins	94
607	511310	POLISHING 25 (G,S) (L S (Cons) Ltd) Mrs P Barker 5-11-1	C Hawkins	85
608	115111	PREOBLAKENSKY 43 (D,G,S) (T Homes) G Richards 5-11-1	N Doughty	82
609	5-41133	ROCCO 7 (D,G,S) (M Oberstein) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-1	M Pitman	92
610	031160	TOP JAVALIN 10 (S) (Mrs J Relp) D Barons 5-11-1	—	75
611	041455	YOUNG HUSTLER 24 (D,F,G,S) (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-1	C Llewellyn	89
612	0150	MASTER FOODBROKER 23 (B,D,F) (Food Brokers Ltd) D Elsworth 4-10-8	P Holley	[illegible]

BETTING: 11-4 Thetford Forest, 7-2 Oh What, 5-1 Deep Heritage, 6-1 Coulton, 8-1 Rocco, 12-1 Preoblakensky, Snowy Lane, 16-1 Dagaz, Polishing, 25-1 others.

1991: SHANNON GLEN 6-11-1 M Bowlby (8-1) Mrs J Pitman 9 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
M H Easterby	3	10	30.0	L Wyer	3	17	17.6
D Elsworth	3	17	17.6	M Bowlby	3	19	15.8
G Richards	4	26	15.4	M Pitman	3	20	15.0
G Balding	5	33	15.2	R Dunwoody	7	52	13.5
Mrs J Pitman	6	46	13.0	M Dwyer	4	34	11.8
(Only qualifiers)				(Only qualifiers)			

(Not including yesterday's results)

3.15 BRITVIC SOFT DRINKS MEDIAN AUCTION GRADUATION STAKES

(3-Y-O: £2,520: 7f, turf) (14 runners)

1	(10)	021200-	ELTON LEDGER 158 (G) (A Scott) A Scott 9-7	B Raymond	88
2	(2)	140-	FIRST CENTURY 161 (D,G) (Lord Donoughmore) P Cole 9-7	T Quinn	● 99
3	(12)	504120-	PEERAGE PRINCE 155 (C,G) (D Hobbs) Pat Mitchell 9-7	S O'Gorman (3)	77
4	(8)	190300-	SEBOSAN 158 (G) (High Point Bloodstock Ltd) A Hide 9-7	W Ryan	79
5	(13)	440-	CONISTON LAKE 199 (K Higson) G Lewis 9-0	B Rouse	88
6	(1)	06-	EFRA 274 (P Jubert) R Hannon 9-0	Pat Eddery	—
7	(6)	0-	GRAND FELLOW 193 (Miss G Fairhurst) J Bethell 9-0	A Munro	—
8	(3)		IREK MANSBER 154 (Sheikh Mohammed) Lord Huntingdon 9-0	J Reid	—
9	(5)	560050-	MANSBER (D Baldwin) Pat Mitchell 9-0	G Duffield	58
10	(11)		MASTAMIST (R Greatorex) R Voorspuy 9-0	J Williams	—
11	(14)	000-	ROSTANDS HERO 171 (J Frith) H Collingridge 9-0	C Hawksley (7)	80
12	(7)	06-	WILL SOON 158 (H Candy) H Candy 9-0	C Rutter	84
13	(4)		ALLMOSA (R Popely) T Naughton 8-9	G Carter	—
14	(9)	00-	SPANISH GLORY 147 (N Harris) I Balding 8-9	R Cochrane	—

8-11 First Century, 13-2 Elton Ledger, 7-1 Sebosan, 8-1 Irek, 10-1 Peerage Prince, 12-1 Will Soon, 16-1 Others.

1990: MAHONG 9-0 M Hills (7-2) J Hills 9 ran

3.45 BRIAN LIVESEY DECORATORS HANDICAP (£2,633: 5f, turf) (10 runners)

1	(3)	00040-0	MITSUBISHI VIDEO 71 (G) (B White) J Scargill 4-10-0	J Williams	—
2	(7)	60112-3	PLAIN FACT 10 (D,F,G,S) (W Sturt) M Prescott 7-9-10	G Duffield	90
3	(6)	1-00000	EVERSET 7 (F) (Broughton Thermal) W Musson 4-9-5	R Cochrane	93
4	(4)	000540-	WANDA 147 (C,D,G,S) (E Mangan) K Burke 5-9-0	D Holland	90
5	(9)	01046-0	TAUBER 91 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs C Reed) Pat Mitchell 8-8-12	S O'Gorman (3)	85
6	(8)	206000-	RESTORE 145 (B,C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs L Philpott) R Voorspuy 9-8-7	Paul Eddery	96
7	(2)	534550-	COPPERMILL LAD 158 (C,D,F,S) (L Holt) L Holt 9-7-11	N Adams	87
8	(1)	060000-	FRIMLEY PARKSON 165 (D,F,G) (P Terry) P Howling 8-7-7	J Lowe	● 99
9	(5)	/00420/	SPITZABIT 583 (G) (Mrs C Reed) Pat Mitchell 8-7-7	R Turner (7)	—
10	(10)	0000-00	BARBEZIEUX 42 (B,D,F,S) (G Walker) T Naughton 5-7-7	J Fanning (3)	85

Long handicap: Frimley Parkson 7-6, Spitzabit 7-3, Barbezieux 7-1.

BETTING: 9-4 Plain Fact, 9-2 Wanda, 11-2 Tauber, 13-2 Restore, 8-1 Coppermill Lad, 10-1 Frimley Parkson, Everset, 16-1 others.

1990: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

4.20 BOVRIL HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,607: 1m 2f, AW) (5 runners)

1	(1)	4012-	MR ZIEGFELD 171 (G) (Capt J Macdonald-Buchanan) M Prescott 9-7	G Duffield	86
2	(3)	6416-21	GROG 8 (D,G) (Mrs D Henson) M Channon 9-4	B Doyle (5)	● 99
3	(4)	3000-11	ERINY 9 (S) (R Cousins) S Norton 8-11	O Pears (7)	98
4	(5)	00-1120	SLIGHT RISK 12J (CD) (Mrs G Kelleway) P Kelleway 8-8	G Bardwell	94
5	(2)	000-	ELIZABETHAN AIR 159 (R Clowes) A Lee 7-7	C Hawksley (7)	76

Long handicap: Elizabethan Air 6-13

BETTING: 5-4 Eriny, 11-4 Mr Ziegfeld, 7-2 Grog, 8-1 Slight Risk, 20-1 Elizabethan Air.

1991: *WINOSKI 8-4 M Roberts (8-1) C Brittain 7 ran*

4.50 LEISURE PROJECTS HANDICAP (£2,422: 7f, AW) (15 runners)

1	(10)	112242	SALLY'S SON 26 (CD,BF,F) W O'Gorman 6-10-0	Emma O'Gorman (5)	98
2	(9)	441506-	HELAWE 99 (B,CD,F,G) (A Finn) M Prescott 9-10-0	G Duffield	94
3	(11)	06/0-011	INVOCATION 28 (CD) (R Kiernan) A Moore 5-9-10	N Adams	● 99
4	(15)	660190	PREDICTABLE 25 (CD,G) (L Hawkings) Mrs A Knight 6-9-0	D Biggs (3)	84
5	(4)	331112	SARUM 25 (C,F) (W Wightman) C Wildman 8-8-11	C Rutter	92
6	(7)	655-0	TENDER MOMENT 8 (R Richards) C Brittain 4-8-10	G Crealock	93
7	(14)	/2/0/56	GORYTUS STAR 14 (S) (Mrs E Haydn Jones) D Haydn Jones 6-8-2	R Price (5)	88
8	(1)	036046-	AIN'TLIFELIKETHAT 121 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Upman) T Naughton 5-7-13	J Fanning (3)	94
9	(5)	000-421	KAY'S DILEMMA 17 (A Pereira) P Kelleway 4-7-10	F Norton (5)	92
10	(3)	034345	SAREEN EXPRESS 17 (D Hazzard) Mrs J Dawe 4-7-7	C Hawksley (7)	86
11	(2)	800/000-	ANATROCCOLO 44J (V,CD) (C Horgan) C Horgan 5-7-7	Dale Gibson	90
12	(13)	0000-34	ZINBAQ 12 (BF,G,S) (Mrs R Baker) C Benstead 6-7-7	J Lowe	88
13	(6)	640000-	CONCERT PITCH 287 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Paling) B Paling 13-7-7	B Doyle (5)	82
14	(12)	00///04	REGAL TIGER 7 (G Roe) Mrs J Dawe 7-7-7	R Fox	77
15	(8)	6-00440	VERRO 35 (B) (P Purdy) J Bennett 5-7-7	G Bardwell	85

Long handicap: Zinbaq 7-4, Concert Pitch 7-4, Regal Tiger 6-11, Verro 6-8.

BETTING: 5-1 Sarum, 6-1 Sally's Son, 13-2 Kay's Dilemma, 7-1 Zinbaq, 8-1 Predictable, Helawe, 9-1 Invocation, 10-1 Ain'tlifelikethat, Sareen Express, 14-1 others.

1991: *DORSET DUKE 4-9-5 G Carter (9-2 jt-fav) G Wragg 10 ran*

HEREFORD

MANDARIN
1.55 Buonarroti. 2.25 The Hidden City. 2.55 Porter's Song. 3.25 Sacre D'Or. 4.30 My Chiara. 5.05 Brief Encounter. 5.35 Butler's Twitch.

THUNDERER
1.55 Lucky Villain. 2.25 Floret. 2.55 Fields Man. *3.25 Sacre D'Or. 4.30 Rusty Music. 5.05 Auction Law.* 5.35 Razoo.

Brian Beel: 2.55 Very Touching.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

1.55 BREW XI NOVICES HURDLE

(£1,235: 3m 1f) (17 runners)

1	5613	ARD T'MATCH 18 (V,G) A Forbes 7-11-12	J O'Hanlon (7)
2	6412	BUONARROTI 10 (S) J Old 5-11-12	T Grantham
3	1000	WARNER FOR WINNERS 36 (S) P Hobbs 6-11-12	B Clifford (3)
4	0219	AGARB 17 (G) K Bailey 7-11-6	—
5	/3/	AKRASH VALLEY 772 J Elliott 7-11-6	G Upton
6		COPFORD 640F D Wintle 5-11-6	P McDermott (7)
7	4	FLASHTHECASH 28 G Balding 6-11-6	J Frost
8	4546	GENERAL SHOT 56 J Edwards 7-11-6	Mr R Davis (7)
9	000	GUITING GRAY 17 D Nicholson 5-11-6	W Marston (7)
10	60	HIGH CASTE 10 (V) M Channon 5-11-6	Lorna Vincent
11	2	LUCKY VILLAIN 28 N Henderson 7-11-6	J White
12	660	NORTH BANNISTER 15 T Forster 5-11-6	J Railton
13	/00	RAGALOO 17 C Broad 6-11-6	Martin Jones
14	0-	JOANEY HOW 378 K Bishop 7-11-1	W Irvine
15	0-00	PALM LADY 59 G Powell 6-11-1	M Hoad
16	0	REDCLYFFE 33 R Frost 4-10-12	—
17	165F	NOVA SPIRIT 8 (S) M Saunders 4-10-7	M A Fitzgerald (3)

6-4 Buonarroti, 3-1 Lucky Villain, 5-1 Ard T'Match, 6-1 Warner For Winners, 8-1 Flashthecash, 10-1 Agarb, 14-1 others

2.25 CARLING BLACK LABEL SELLING HURDLE

(£1,660: 2m) (18)

1	-122	FLORET 51 (B,BF,F) M Pipe 5-11-10	J Lower
2	4142	THE HIDDEN CITY 22 (D,BF,G) C Trietline 6-11-10	D Bridgwater (3)
3	4585	PONTEVECCHIO BELLA 24 (B,D,S) R Juckes 6-11-5	S Wynne (7)
4	008-	STRAW BLADE 408 (D,F) Mrs J Retter 6-11-5	M A Fitzgerald (3)
5	P4/	FIRST WHIP 788 C Broad 6-11-2	Martin Jones
6	4300	MONSIEUR MORUE 17 (V) P Bevan 5-11-2	R Stronge
7	P004	ROCHE 162 P Pritchard 6-11-2	A Webb
8	06P	AILORT 10 G Yardley 5-10-11	—
9	65-6	BURNDITCH GIRL 17 Mrs N Sharpe 6-10-11	M Bosley
10	00	CATHS FOLLY 14 J Peacock 5-10-11	W Humphreys
11	0F50	MARINERS MOL 30 J Colston 5-10-11	V Slattery (5)
12	P-00	ROCKY'S MATE 9 D Wintle 5-10-11	C Gibbons (7)
13	00PP	BOOK OF GENESIS 38 P Burgoyne 4-10-8	A Charlton
14	4	FLYING CONNECTION 33 W Clay 4-10-8	J Driscoll (7)
15	3006	IT'S NOT MY FAULT 80 (B) D Wintle 4-10-8	P McDermott
16	0046	TURBO-R 9 A Chamberlain 4-10-8	Lorna Vincent
17		HIGH KICKING 287F (B) D Burchell 4-10-3	S Davies (3)
18	050F	NORTHERN OPTIMIST 22 (B) B Llewellyn 4-10-3	Mr J L Llewellyn (7)

5-2 Floret, 7-2 The Hidden City, 5-1 Roche, 6-1 Flying Connection, 8-1 Pontevecchio Bella, 12-1 others

2.55 WORTHINGTON BEST BITTER NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,184: 2m 3f) (14)

1	U-	AORTIC 382 Mrs D Buckett 13-12-0	Miss J Wickham (7)
2		BANBURY MAN Miss W Evans 8-12-0	—
3	0-05	CODGER 33 (B) Mrs H Mobley 12-12-0	Miss K Mobley (7)
4	-83U	FIELDS MAN 15 G Lewis 10-12-0	W Bryan (7)
5	0/P	GUNNER JIM 22 M Fetherston-Godley 8-12-0	—
6	/5-	ICKY'S FIVE 334 Mrs G Callaghan 8-12-0	Miss K Ellis (7)
7	30-P	OBLATION 53 Miss S Barraclough 7-12-0	Miss S Barraclough (7)
8	0-	PADDY'S POCKET 378 D Esden 8-12-0	A Hambly (7)
9	64-3	PORTER'S SONG 33 H Hutsby 11-12-0	L Lay (7)
10	-FP4	VERY TOUCHING 33 S Pike 7-12-0	—
11	F/	CORRECT GIRL 1076 N Ridout 10-11-9	N Ridout (7)
12		NELLY LUTCHER Mrs M Starks 6-11-9	P McLoughlin (7)
13	8P	ROCKMOUNT ROSE 18 R Rowe 7-11-9	J Luck (7)
14	00-	SON OF TEKNOSO 580 (V) Miss S Smith 5-11-7	—

3-1 Fields Man, 4-1 Fields Man, 9-2 Icky's Five, 6-1 Very Touching, 8-1 Paddy's Pocket, 10-1 Nelly Lutcher, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S Christian, 6 winners from 16 runners, 37.5%; C Brooks, 5 from 14, 35.7%; O Sherwood, 6 from 18, 33.3%; N Henderson, 6 from 20, 30.0%; M Pipe, 34 from 116, 29.3%; D Nicholson, 17 from 58, 29.3%.

JOCKEYS: D Leahy, 3 winners from 10 rides, 30.0%; M A Fitzgerald, 3 from 17, 17.6%; J Frost, 5 from 35, 14.3%; J Lower, 3 from 21, 14.3%; E Tierney, 4 from 29, 13.8%; W Irvine, 3 from 25, 12.0%.

3.25 MITCHELLS & BUTLERS NOVICES CHASE (£2,997: 2m 3f) (16)

1	2212	SACRE D'OR 29 (G,S) J Mackie 7-11-11	S J O'Neill
2	0313	SPARK OF PEACE 12 (G,S) P Blockley 10-11-11	P Midgley (5)
3	30-P	*BERKANA RUN 59 B Cambidge 7-11-4*	Mr J Cambidge
4	4562	BRIDGETOWN LAD 21 M Meade 11-11-4	G Upton
5	0555	CAPTAIN KRAYYAN 38 R Rowe 6-11-4	T Grantham
6	0532	JAMES MY BOY 10 (G,S) W Clay 12-11-4	M Brennan
7	4P60	KELLY OWENS 30 N Smith 7-11-4	P Leech
8	4/	LOUDER THAN WORDS 1235 G Ham 8-11-4	M A Fitzgerald (3)
9	P/P	MASTER MERLIN 40 Miss H Knight 8-11-4	M Bosley
10	UFF6	PREDITOR 11 P Rodford 8-11-4	—
11	P-FP	QUEST FOR SUCCESS 14 P Hobbs 6-11-4	—
12	0FF	SAM PEPPER 28 Mrs S Farr 6-11-4	E Byrne
13	0B5P	SEVERN INVADER 7 (V) R Dickin 7-11-4	Martin Jones
14	0405	STORM WARRIOR 47 (B,G) B Preece 7-11-4	G Lyons
15	8-06	WAR DANCER 16 (S) M Castell 10-11-4	V Slattery (5)
16	P4U2	YORKSHIREMAN 16 (F,G,S) J Glover 7-11-4	M Ahern

15-8 Sacre D'Or, 7-2 Spark Of Peace, 5-1 James My Boy, 8-1 Bridgetown Lad, 10-1 Yorkshireman, 12-1 others.

4.30 TENNENTS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,235: 2m 3f) (18)

1	3011	NORTHERN VILLAGE 30 S Dow 5-11-10	A Dicken (5)
2	4123	SCHWEPPES TONIC 19 (C,G) William Price 6-11-7	D Matthews (7)
3	0440	PINTAIL BAY 14 (V) C Brooks 6-11-5	J Railton
4	12P5	TO BE FAIR 138 (D,F) P Hobbs 5-11-4	N Parker (7)
5	0-03	OLD DEER PARK 16 D Barons 6-11-4	J Frost
6	33F0	FAMOUS LAD 24 (V,S) R Lee 9-11-0	E Tierney (5)
7	3366	RUSTY MUSIC 16 (B) R Brown 6-10-11	—
8	2-P6	L'UOMO CLASSICS 22 R Rowe 5-10-11	T Grantham
9	00-2	STORM ISLAND 93 (G) J Edwards 7-10-10	M A Fitzgerald (3)
10	03P0	VOLPEDO 36 R Manning 5-10-8	—
11	0155	KOVALEVSKIA 18 D Wilson 7-10-7	D Bridgwater (3)
12	0232	MY CHIARA 31 (V,BF) P Bevan 6-10-6	R Stronge
13	0413	OL DE LOIR 16 (C,G) D Nicholson 4-10-5	W Marston (7)
14	/0	FORTUNE GREEN 10 R Eckley 7-10-4	B Clifford (3)
15	3216	SHAREEF STAR 19 (S) M Blanshard 4-10-3	D Gallagher
16	1530	JUST A WONDER 13 (F) S Christian 8-10-2	—
17	0P03	FREE EXPRESSION 100 Mrs E Brooks 7-10-1	S Robinson (7)
18	403	LINCHMERE LAD 15 T Greathead 4-10-0	W Humphreys

7-2 Northern Village, 4-1 Storm Island, 5-1 My Chiara, Ol De Loir, 6-1 To Be Fair, Old Deer Park, 12-1 others

5.05 STONES BEST BITTER HANDICAP CHASE (£2,635: 3m 1f) (18)

1	F34F	DEVIL'S VALLEY 36 (B,S) R Rowe 9-12-0	Mr C Burnett-Wells (7)
2	5110	AUCTION LAW 25 (CD,F,G,S) D Barons 8-11-7	J Frost
3	/1P	TROUT ANGLER 100 (D,F,G,S) M Channon 11-11-5	Lorna Vincent
4	/10-	RYNODE 388 (D,F) J Dalton 9-11-1	Mr A Dalton (7)
5	2U-3	*ROYLE SPEEDMASTER 54 (G) J Edwards 8-10-5*	S J O'Neill
6	50U0	UNDER OFFER 29 (B,CD,G,S) J King 11-10-5	J Kavanagh
7	11P2	AVONMOUTHSECRETARY 15 (CD,F,G) R Holder 6-10-5	E Byrne
8	564P	PITHY 10 (V,CD,G,S) C Broad 10-10-0	D Leahy (7)
9	F-10	*ALL AFLOAT 53 (G) T Forster 8-10-0*	J Railton
10	0PP0	ABBA LAD 24 (D,G,S) J Bosley 10-10-0	M Bosley
11	-U21	BRIEF ENCOUNTER 10 (G,S) P Nicholls 8-10-0	M A Fitzgerald (3)
12	3015	SAM SHORROCK 18 (B,G) G Thorner 10-10-0	D Bridgwater (3)
13	52PP	HEIGHT OF FUN 16 (D,F,S) C Popham 8-10-0	Martin Jones
14	UU03	DANDY MINSTREL 24 (B,F,G,S) E Wheeler 8-10-0	J Ryan (3)
15	/PP	ASTRAL SPIRIT 18 (S) J Elliott 12-10-0	G Upton
16	4/P	MOURNE WARRIOR 18 K White 9-10-0	A O'Hagan
17	5652	CROWECOPPER 73 (F,G,S) B Preece 13-10-0	Mr T Jenks (7)
18	P63F	TIPPERARY INN 21 (S) R Mathew 10-10-0	W Humphreys

5-2 Auction Law, 7-2 Brief Encounter, 5-1 All Afloat, 6-1 Avonmouthsecretary, 8-1 Sam Shorrock, 10-1 others.

5.35 GRUNWICK STAKES NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£1,038: 1m 5f) (17)

1	BUSY HANDS I Anderson 5-11-6	Mr S Dickin (7)
2	BUTLER'S TWITCH O Sherwood 5-11-6	J McCarthy (7)
3	HEATON T Forster 5-11-6	S Robinson (7)
4	RAZOO J Edwards 5-11-6	Mr R Davis (7)
5	SILVER SHILLING P Felgate 5-11-6	S D Williams (5)
6	ATTYRE J Dalton 5-11-3	Mr A Dalton (7)
7	GILTAR K Bridgwater 5-11-3	Mr G Morrow (7)
8	LEINTHALL DOE J Needham 6-11-3	A Flannigan (7)
9	BLASTER BINS J Mackie 4-11-2	J O'Hanlon (7)
10	BOROCAY M Camacho 4-11-2	W Dwan (7)
11	DEBAUCHED C Brooks 4-11-2	A McCabe (7)
12	FATHER HAYES W Pearce 4-11-2	S Wynne (7)
13	FICHU G Thorner 4-11-2	D Bridgwater (3)
14	FOOLISH FANTASY Mrs A Ratcliff 4-11-2	D Bainley (7)
15	LIGHTNING DECISION J Smith 4-11-2	T Eley (7)
16	MOST RICH J Etherington 4-11-2	P Midgley (5)
17	ST JOHN'S HILL W G M Turner 4-11-2	P Carey (7)

5-2 Razoo, 7-2 Butler's Twitch, 4-1 Debauched, 8-1 Heaton, 8-1 Borocay, 10-1 Foolish Fantasy, 14-1 others

UTTOXETER

MANDARIN
2.00 Breenamore. 2.30 Relekto. 3.00 Once Stung. 3.30 Ashpit. 4.30 Mount Argus. 5.00 Sporting *Mariner.*

THUNDERER
2.00 Radical Views. 2.30 Relekto. 3.00 Precipice Lodge. 3.30 Kilknockin. 4.30 Mount Argus. 5.00 Sporting Mariner.

Brian Beel: 2.00 Wally Wrekin. 2.30 Cullane. 3.00 Radical Views. 3.30 Matsix. 4.30 Mount Argus. 5.00 Sporting Mariner.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 ST GILES APPEAL COMMITTEE MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £835: 2m 4f) (10 runners)

1	2-U2	BREENAMORE 38 (V) Mrs S Clarke 10-12-5	C Newport (7)
2	/63-	CREGGS BOY 523 (B) Mrs S Savile 8-12-5	G Hanmer (7)
3	05-	FLESK BRIDGE 315 Mrs C Hirst 10-12-5	O Warburton (7)
4	P/	FLORISTIC 1005 J Groucott 8-12-5	R Hewitt (7)
5	/P-F	GO MILETRIAN 40 F Kirby 8-12-5	J Beardsall (7)
6	/U4	*RADICAL VIEWS 19 Mrs A Murray 7-12-5*	I Mackie (3)
7	0/	TH'OILMEN 1195 G Gingell 9-12-5	A Bowlby (7)
8	00F-	WALLY WREKIN 383 Mrs P Powley 9-12-5	S Brookshaw (7)
9	-442	HOW MAJESTIC 12 (B) P Warner 8-12-0	A Farrant (7)
10		SPRING RHYME J Mackie 6-12-0	—

11-4 Breenamore, 7-2 How Majestic, Radical Views, 9-2 Wally Wrekin, 8-1 Creggs Boy, 9-1 Flesk Bridge, 12-1 Spring Rhyme.

2.30 TET NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE

(Amateurs: £770: 2m 4f) (7)

1	P-13	CULLANE 19 (D,G) Miss C Saunders 8-12-7	J Greenall
2	/16	*RELEKTO 11 (BF,G,S) M Felton 10-12-7*	M Felton (7)
3	3/P	INDIAN MAESTRO 33 Mrs A Swinbank 6-12-0	C Wilson (7)
4	00/	JOGALOT 716 F Kirby 6-12-0	J Beardsall (7)
5	3/	LONTANO 1067 (G,S) Miss L Shally 10-12-0	—
6	0-24	THE UNDERGRADUATE 31 (B,S) C Trietline 13-12-0	Miss J Butler (7)
7	10-6	*SALINE 48 (B,S) J Meddings 7-11-9*	G Hanmer (7)

5-2 Relekto, 7-2 Cullane, 4-1 The Undergraduate, 6-1 Saline, 8-1 Lontano, 10-1 Jogalot, 12-1 Indian Maestro, 14-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Mackie, 9 winners from 62 runners, 14.5%; W A Stephenson, 8 from 63, 12.7% (Only qualifiers)

JOCKEYS: No qualifiers

3.00 BRITISH GAS MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £744: 3m 2f) (7)

1	P/	ALEX-PATH 1115 J Townson 9-12-5	J Townson (7)
2	02	ONCE STUNG 17 W A Stephenson 6-12-5	J Greenall
3	23-	PRECIPICE LODGE 538 M Felton 12-12-5	N Felton (7)
4	/U4	RADICAL VIEWS 19 Mrs A Murray 7-12-5	I Mackie (3)
5	P/	TICARC 781 M Wellings 11-12-5	M Wellings (7)
6	4P-	BODFARI 587 P Morris 7-12-0	R Jones (7)
7	/33	WAY CLEAR 40 J Meddings 9-12-0	G Hanmer (7)

2-1 Precipice Lodge, 3-1 Radical Views, 4-1 Once Stung, 6-1 Way Clear, 8-1 Bodfari, 10-1 Ticarc, 12-1 Alex-Path

3.30 BRADSHAW (BROS) HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £802: 3m 2f) (8)

1	F3-4	KILKNOCKIN 43 (S) W A Stephenson 10-12-5	J Greenall
2	325P	MATSIX 23 (S) C Nash 11-12-5	T Jones (7)
3	6-24	ASHPIT 36 (G) Mrs A Garton 11-12-0	T Garton (7)
4	44-	*CROWN EYEGLASS 369 J Townson 6-12-0*	J Townson (7)
5	4	GITCHE GUMME 56 Mrs T Lindsay 11-12-0	G Hanmer (7)
6	230-	JOPAJUSCHA 308 (B,S) Mrs R Swindells 13-12-0	Miss K Swindells (7)
7	F526	ROVING SEAL 8 (S) W G M Turner 10-12-0	A Farrant (7)
8	P36-	SHACKIN BRIG 381 (B,G) T Wagstaff 15-12-0	S Charlton (7)

9-4 Kilknockin, 3-1 Roving Seal, 9-2 Matsix, 6-1 Jopajuscha, 8-1 Ashpit, 10-1 Crown Eyeglass, 12-1 others

4.30 PETER SMITH SPORTS CARS OPEN HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,509: 3m 2f) (5)

1	-21P	MOUNT ARGUS 23 (CD,F,G,S) S Brookshaw 10-12-3	S Brookshaw (7)
2	3522	ARDESEE 23 (CD,G,S) D Wintle 12-12-0	J Wintle (7)
3	P-40	BOLD ACCLAIM 15 (D,F,S) Miss R Palman 11-12-0	J Gallagher (7)
4	1-46	OAKLEY HOUSE 36 (F,S) R Acton 13-12-0	J W Barlow (7)
5	UP4-	*SWINHOE CROFT 389 (S) C Furnival 10-12-0*	C Burrows (7)

7-4 Mount Argus, 5-2 Oakley House, 4-1 Bold Acclaim, 6-1 Ardesee, 8-1 Swinhoe Croft

5.00 LADY LICHFIELD OPEN HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £858: 2m 6f) (8)

1	4354	BALLYSHEEHAN 180 (F,G) A Bowlby 14-12-0	A Bowlby (7)
2	5-UB	INFIELDER 11 (F,G,S) Miss R Palman 14-12-0	J Gallagher (7)
3	8U5-	*PYLEIGH PRINCE 352 (G) R Harvey 11-12-0*	—
4	B105	SPORTING MARINER 9 (F,G,S) D Bloor 10-12-0	D Bloor (7)
5	3/P-	SUPER FURROW 530 (B,D,F,G,S) P King 12-12-0	—
6	/4P-	WHICH WAY NOW 556 (G) Mrs S Clarke 11-12-0	C Newport (7)
7	2/U	WONDER BEE 33 (F,S) C Smith 9-12-0	J Cornwall (7)
8	5-5P	*FIRST SHADOW 15 (S) R Lowe 11-11-9*	Miss C Burgess (7)

11-10 Sporting Mariner, 7-2 Ballysheehan, 5-1 Pyleigh Prince, 8-1 Which Way Now, 10-1 Wonder Bee, 14-1 others

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Liverpool

Going: good (Grand National course good to soft)

2.00 (3m 1f ch) 1, River Bounty (R Supple, 12-1); 2, Rocktor (12-1); 3, In The Fashion (50-1). Gambling Royal, Laundryman 5-1 jt-favs. 14 ran. NR: Dubious Jake. ½l, 15l. J Upson. Tote: £27.90; £5.90, £2.60, £11.90. DF: £86.90. CSF: £130.86. Tricast £6,103.01.

2.35 (2m 4f ch) 1, Remittance Man (R Dunwoody, 4-9 fav); 2, Edberg (25-1); 3, Pat's Jester (9-2). 4 ran. 8l, 20l. N Henderson. Tote £1.50. DF: £5.30. CSF £7.31

3.10 (3m 1f ch) 1, Bradbury Star (E Murphy, 6-4 fav); 2, Jodami (11-2); 3, Run For Free (9-4). 7 ran. NR: King's Curate. ¾l, 7l. J Gifford. Tote: £2.30; £1.60, £2.60. DF: £6.50. CSF £9.00

3.45 (2m 6f ch) 1, Gee-A (Mr P Murphy, 66-1); 2, Raise An Argument (11-1); 3, Glenavey (20-1). Rushing Wild 9-4 fav. 29 ran. NR: Rectory Boy. 1l, 1l. G Hubbard. Tote: £58.60; £12.30, £4.30, £19.50. DF: £376.60. CSF: £626.01

4.20 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Ninepins (C Swan, 14-1); 2, Welshman (16-1); 3, Dara Doone (9-2 jt-fav); 4, Champagne Lad (16-1). Dusty Miller 9-2 jt-fav. 16 ran. NR: Lake Teerean. 1l, sh hd. A Moore. Tote £14.00; £2.30, £2.80, £1.50, £3.90. DF: £151.00. Trio: £279.00. CSF: £199.11. Tricast: £1,070.02

4.50 (3m 1f hdle) 1, Barton Bank (C Llewellyn, 20-1); 2, Bishops Island (4-1); 3, Triple Witching (5-2 fav). 15 ran. NR: Sunday Punch. 8l, 2½l. D Nicholson. Tote: £46.40; £7.50, £2.70, £1.60. DF: £66.00. CSF: £95.24

5.20 (2m 4f ch) 1, Howe Street (A Orkney, 13-2); 2, Whatever You Like (5-1); 3, Bad Trade (20-1). Toranfield, King Of The Lof 9-2 jt-favs. 10 ran. 10l, 2½l. J Johnson. Tote: £11.50; £2.80, £1.80, £3.70. DF £28.00. CSF £36.81. Tricast £563.89

Jackpot: not won (pool of £28,743.55 carried forward to Liverpool today).
Placepot: £2,549.90.

Devon & Exeter

Going: soft

1.50 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Rafiki (M A Fitzgerald, 6-4); 2, West Bay (33-1); 3, Tammy's Friend (10-1). Noble Insight 11-10 fav. 11 ran. 10l, 20l. Mrs J Retter. Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £2.00, £2.30. DF: £11.70. CSF: £48.80

2.25 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Miss Purbeck (M A Fitzgerald, 7-2); 2, Ballenna Rose (8-1); 3, Swilly Express (9-4 fav). 12 ran. 1l, 1½l. Mrs J Retter. Tote: £3.80; £1.50, £3.80, £1.50. DF: £27.20. CSF: £28.59. Tricast: £88.43. After a stewards enquiry result stood

2.55 (3m 1f ch) 1, Ballyeden (Mr R Alner, 4-1); 2, Spartan Dancer (7-2 fav); 3, Beech Grove (7-1). 15 ran. 6l, 12l. Mrs S Messer-Bennetts. Tote: £4.30; £2.00, £1.60, £3.70. DF: £6.30. CSF: £17.79.

3.30 (2m 3f hdle) 1, Vado Via (Mr R Davis, 7-2); 2, Di Moda (20-1); 3, Va Utu (9-2). Dormers Delight 11-10 fav. 14 ran. NR: Barn Free, Lady Gwenmore. 3l, ½l. D Wintle. Tote: £3.70; £1.10, £5.00, £1.90. DF: £15.50. CSF: £67.04

4.05 (2m 1f ch) 1, Trevaylor (B Clifford, 6-5 fav); 2, Green Island (12-1); 3, Master South Lad (16-1). 10 ran. 12l, 4l. P Hobbs. Tote: £2.50; £1.40, £2.10, £8.00. DF: £8.00. CSF: £15.38. Tricast: £146.45

4.40 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Shadeux (Mr M Hourigan, 4-1 fav); 2, Fearsome (33-1); 3, Truism (5-1). 12 ran. NR: Music Wonder. Nk, 2½l. Mrs J Wonnacott. Tote: £5.60; £1.60, £4.00, £1.90. DF: £46.00. CSF: £99.64. Tricast: £607.29

5.10 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Noble Yeoman (D Meredith, 10-1); 2, Train Robber (7-1); 3, Around The Horn (7-2). Jump Start 15-8 fav. 11 ran. NR: Allo George. 15l, hd. R Dickin. Tote: £18.40; £2.00, £2.40, £1.90. DF: £60.30. CSF: £76.60

Placepot: £55.00

Kempton Park

Going: good to soft

1.40 (5f) 1, Tuscan Dawn (Pat Eddery, 8-1); 2, Auntie Ginger (40-1); 3, Gaynor Goodman (33-1). Surprise Offer 9-2 fav. 19 ran. NR: Kind of Cute. Sh hd, 2l. J Berry. Tote: £6.60; £3.60, £23.70, £17.60. DF: £156.00. CSF: £275.39

2.10 (1m 1f) 1, Bengal Tiger (Ken McDonnell, 13-2); 2, Always Ready (10-1); 3, Princess Roxanne (6-1 fav); 4, Ballenna Bay (9-1). 18 ran. NR: Atlantic Way. Sh hd, 2l. J Akehurst. Tote: £7.40; £1.90, £2.30, £1.10, £3.90. DF: £104.60. CSF: £66.80. Tricast: £377.73

2.45 (1m) 1, Pollen Count (S Cauthen, 2-1 fav); 2, Free Flyer (3-1); 3, Jeune (10-1). 15 ran. 2l, 1½l. J Gosden. Tote: £3.40; £1.70, £2.10, £2.30. DF: £5.40. CSF: £10.04

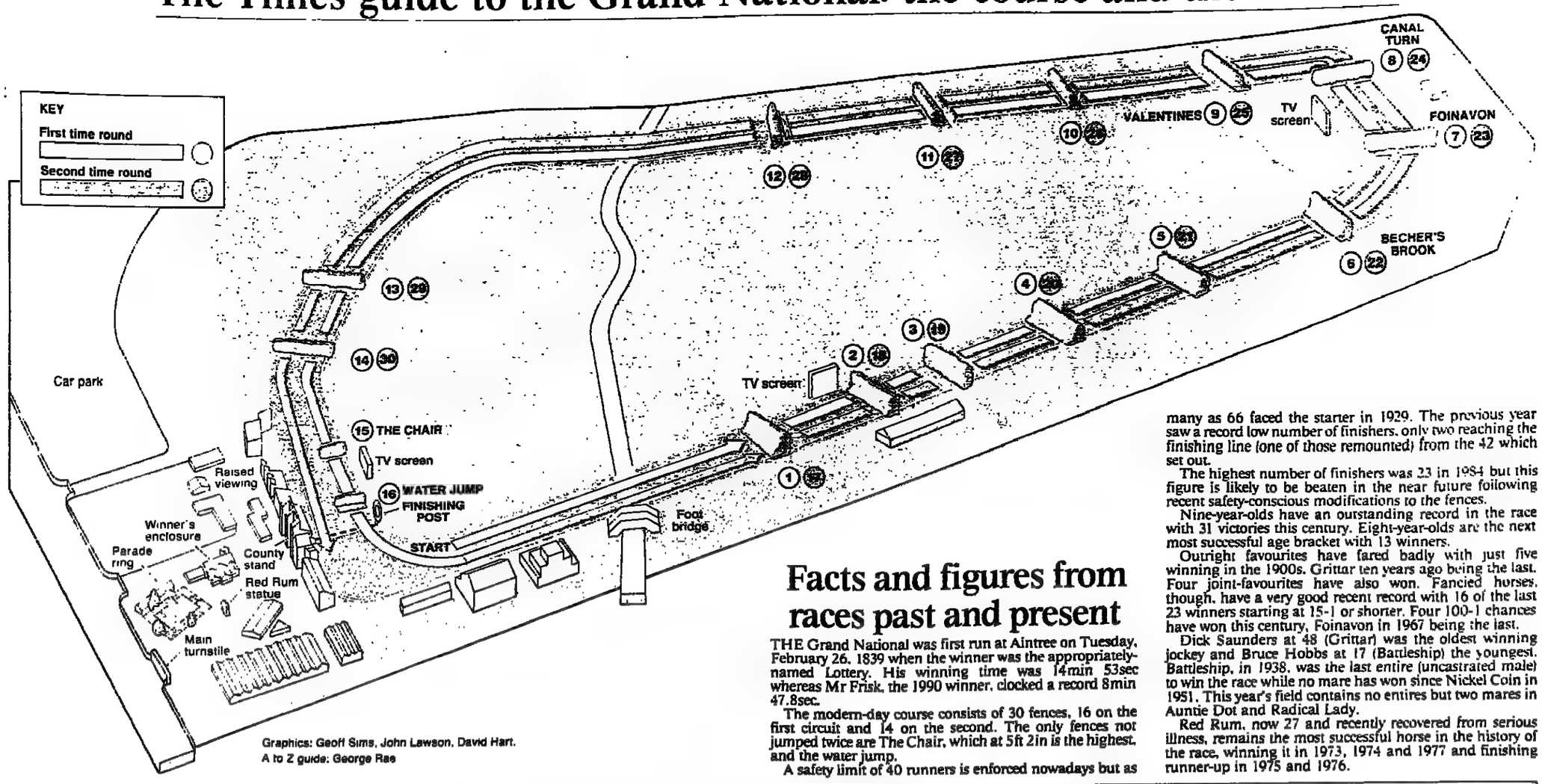
3.20 (1m 4f) 1, Western Dynasty (L Dettori, 10-1); 2, Rare Detail (12-1); 3, Broom Isle (14-1); 4, Eire Leath-Sceal (14-1). Rosgill and Samurai Gold 7-1 jt favs. 22 ran. 1l, 6l. M Ryan. Tote: £16.00; £3.30, £2.30, £6.80, £3.90. Trio: £682.20. DF: £332.20. CSF: £121.08. Tricast: £1,566.00

3.55 (1m 2f) 1, Red Bishop (S Cauthen, 7-2 fav); 2, Crystal Path (9-2); 3, Ile De Chypre (10-1). 12 ran. 3½l, 2l. J Gosden. Tote: £4.20; £1.60, £2.70, £2.80. DF: £5.80. CSF: £21.17

4.30 (6f) 1, Nordic Brave (K Darley, 7-1); 2, Across The Bay (12-1); 3, Paddy Chalk (12-1); 4, Baysham (14-1). Piquant 6-1 fav. 25 ran. ½l, 1½l. M Brittain. Tote: £9.00; £2.80, £4.60, £3.40, £9.20. DF: £22.40. CSF: £98.73. Tricast: £965.12

Placepot: £378.20.

The Times guide to the Grand National: the course and the runners



Graphics: Geoff Sims, John Lawson, David Hart.
A to Z guide: George Rae

Facts and figures from races past and present

THE Grand National was first run at Aintree on Tuesday, February 26, 1839 when the winner was the appropriately-named Lottery. His winning time was 14min 53sec whereas Mr Frisk, the 1990 winner, clocked a record 8min 47.8sec.

The modern-day course consists of 30 fences, 16 on the first circuit and 14 on the second. The only fences not jumped twice are The Chair, which at 5ft 2in is the highest, and the water jump.

A safety limit of 40 runners is enforced nowadays but as many as 66 faced the starter in 1929. The previous year saw a record low number of finishers, only two reaching the finishing line (one of those remounted) from the 42 which set out.

The highest number of finishers was 23 in 1984 but this figure is likely to be beaten in the near future following recent safety-conscious modifications to the fences.

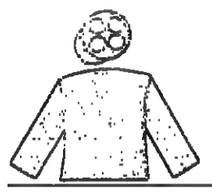
Nine-year-olds have an outstanding record in the race with 31 victories this century. Eight-year-olds are the next most successful age bracket with 13 winners.

Outright favourites have fared badly with just five winning in the 1900s. Grittar ten years ago being the last. Four joint-favourites have also won. Fancied horses, though, have a very good recent record with 16 of the last 23 winners starting at 15-1 or shorter. Four 100-1 chances have won this century, Foinavon in 1967 being the last.

Dick Saunders at 48 (Grittar) was the oldest winning jockey and Bruce Hobbs at 17 (Battleship) the youngest. Battleship, in 1938, was the last entire (uncastrated male) to win the race while no mare has won since Nickel Coin in 1951. This year's field contains no entires but two mares in Auntie Dot and Radical Lady.

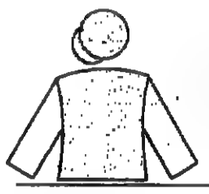
Red Rum, now 27 and recently recovered from serious illness, remains the most successful horse in the history of the race, winning it in 1973, 1974 and 1977 and finishing runner-up in 1975 and 1976.

COLOURS CHECK AND A TO Z ANALYSIS OF THE 40 BIG-RACE CONTENDERS

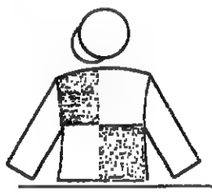


AUNTIE DOT
Jockey: Mark Dwyer
Attempting to become the first mare to win since Nickel Coin in 1951. Has a stiffer task than when third last year but race experience gives her a solid each-way chance. Has never fallen in a steeplechase. (National form: -,-,3).

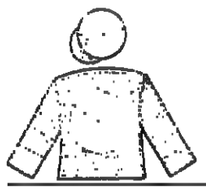
HONEYBEER MEAD
Jockey: Nick Mann
Least successful horse in the field – just one career win to his name – so victory would be a sensation of Foinavon proportions. Rank outsider, around 200-1 is a reasonable estimate, and he's hardly a bargain even at that price.



OLD APPLEJACK
Jockey: Andy Orkney
Newcastle specialist facing a stiff task away from his favourite track. Completed the course last year without ever being dangerous and that again looks a likely formula. Ridden by optician Andy Orkney but still difficult to see him winning. (National form: -,-,8).



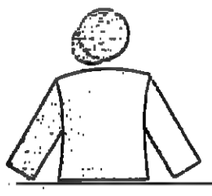
RUBIKA
Jockey: Peter Niven
Trainer Stan Mellor has gone close several times without winning. No problems with the trip, jumps soundly, but his chance will decline if the ground becomes faster. Niven, enjoying a fine season, takes over from regular rider Mark Perrett, injured on Thursday.



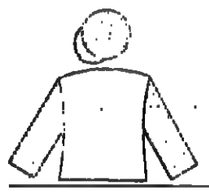
BONANZA BOY
Jockey: Steve Smith Eccles
What a difference a year makes. Favourite last season but now banished to the longshots after a series of lacklustre runs. Contesting his fourth National but looks like his best chances have passed him by. Well suited by soft ground (National form: 8,0,5).

HOTPLATE
Jockey: Graham McCourt
No warm order despite being trained by Ginger McCain, responsible for three-times winner Red Rum. The trainer and McCourt shared a 33-1 winner at Ascot last weekend but are unlikely to make this another Saturday special. (National form: -,-,P).

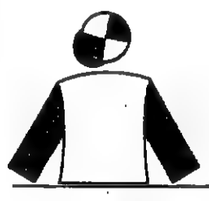
OMERTA
Jockey: Lorcan Wyer
Last season's Irish Grand National winner and nominally trainer Martin Pipe's second string. Pipe is an expert at producing horses fit first time out but this is tail order even for him. Wyer won on Omerta at Cheltenham six years ago.



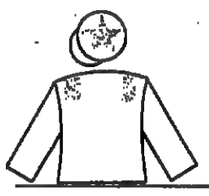
SEAGRAM
Jockey: Nigel Hawke
Last year's winner but difficult to get excited about his chance this time. Moderate form only this season and, being on the small side, will not be helped by having to carry 11st 4lb. Each-way prospects at best. (National form: -,-,1).



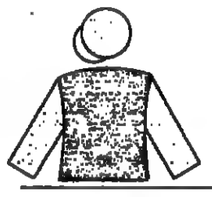
BROWN WINDSOR
Jockey: Richard Dunwoody
Fourth two years ago and win last time out suggested a return to form. Sound National pedigree: trainer Nick Henderson has twice saddled the runner-up and Dunwoody was successful on West Tip (1986). Best on good ground. (National form: -,4,-).



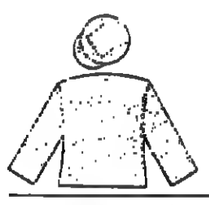
HUNTWORTH
Jockey: Mark Richards
More probably never in the Huntworth, at least not in his two previous attempts. Has been well behind when departing and is very much a long shot to make it third time lucky. Least fancied of Martin Pipe's three runners. (National form: -;U,P).



OVER THE ROAD
Jockey: Robbie Supple
A fourth last year to Seagram and then a good third in the Scottish equivalent convinced owner-trainer John Upson that he had a horse to aim at the National. Sound jumper, stays well and loves soft ground. Worth consideration. (National form: -,-,4)

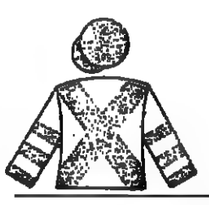


SIRRAH JAY
Jockey: Ronnie Beggan
Least fancied of trainer Toby Balding's three runners. In good form this season but disappointing run over the National fences on Thursday does not inspire confidence. Should handle the fences but question mark over stamina.



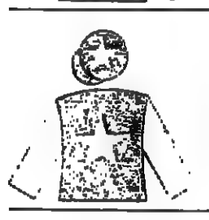
CLONEY GRANGE
Jockey: David O'Connor
Only one 13-year-old this century has won the National - Sergeant Murphy in 1923 - and this rank outsider is unlikely to improve that record. Well suited by soft ground but will need all the luck the Irish can muster - and then some.

JUST SO
Jockey: Simon Burrough
First National runner for former jockey Paul Nicholls. Proven stayer but only two career wins is not the ideal curriculum vitae for Aintree. Even over this trip his lack of pace is likely to be his undoing. The softer the ground the better.

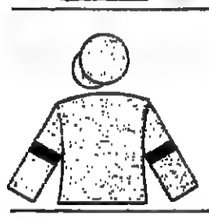


PARTY POLITICS
Jockey: Carl Llewellyn
Topical tip with a general election approaching but has more than simple coincidence on his side. Thorough stayer whose jumping agility belies an enormous frame. Can handle any type of ground. One to put on the agenda.

STAY ON TRACKS
Jockey: Chris Grant
Trainer Arthur Stephenson and Grant deserve a change of luck after finishing second with Durham Edition in 1988 and 1990. Proven stayer who is probably best on good ground. Grant's twelfth National ride. Solid each-way chance.



COOL GROUND
Jockey: Martin Lynch
Well weighted for his attempt to become only second horse to complete the Gold Cup-National double in same season. Trainer Toby Balding has won with Highland Wedding (1969) and Little Polveir (1989). Best on soft ground. Leading chance.

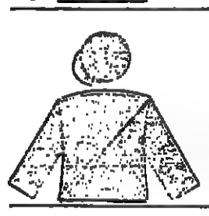


KARAKTER REFERENCE
Jockey: Darren O'Sullivan
Trainer Roland O'Sullivan has pulled off some celebrated coups in his time but this would surely be his greatest achievement. On form no forlorn hope but any hint of soft ground would be a worry - seven of his eight wins have been on good to firm or firm going.

RADICAL LADY
Jockey: Jason Callaghan
Steady performer around the northern tracks but facing a far stiffer task here. First taste of the National for Callaghan, who had never even been to Aintree before this year. A lady unlikely to be found in the winner's enclosure.

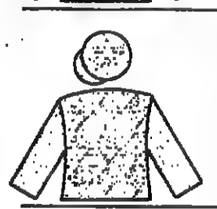
STEARSBY
Jockey: Seamus Mackey
Returns to the National after a break of two years. Once useful – won 1986 Welsh National – but now a shadow of his former self. Pulled up both starts this season and will do well to finish. First National ride for Mackey. (National form: 0,-,-).

DOCKLANDS EXPRESS
Jockey: Peter Scudamore
Fell first last year. In excellent form this season – close third in Gold Cup last time – at his best in spring and is well handicapped. Trainer Kim Bailey won with Mr Frisk two years ago. Drying ground is in his favour. Clear chance. (National form: -,-,F).

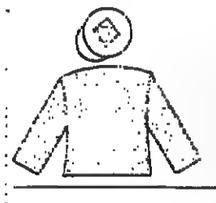


KITTINGER
Jockey: Ian Lawrence
Trainer Andy Turnell won with Maori Venture in 1987 but has only a slim chance of another success with Kittinger. Without a win for two years and this is a tough place to try to break that sequence. Badly treated at the weights too.

RAWHIDE
Jockey: Kevin O'Brien
Mouse Morris considers Rawhide the best of the Irish-trained challengers although the betting says otherwise. Back to his best last time after sketchy early-season form but would have to improve still further to trouble the leading fancies.



TEAM CHALLENGE
Jockey: Ben de Haan
National stalwart whose efforts here have gradually declined. Refused 19th last year. Jumps well enough when he puts his mind to it but is becoming moody. De Haan won on Corbiere (1983). A challenge unlikely to materialise. (National form: 9,0,R).



FOREST RANGER
Jockey: Dai Tegg
Yogi Bear would probably have as good a chance as this ranger. Rank outsider last year – started at 100-1 – and was soon bringing up the rear. Inconsistent stayer likely to suffer same fate again. (National form: -,-,0).

LAURA'S BEAU
Jockey: Conor O'Dwyer
Has one National, the Ansells version at Uttoxeter, to his credit this season. Thorough stayer well suited by soft ground. Probably Ireland's best chance to land a first National since L'Escargot in 1975. First ride in the big one for O'Dwyer.

ROC DE PRINCE
Jockey: Brendan Sheridan
Good-class chaser last season. Trained for the race but recent runs leave the impression he is still searching for his best form. Thorough stayer who could find the drying ground turning against him. Second National ride for Sheridan.

TWIN OAKS
Jockey: Neale Doughty
Trainer Gordon Richards seeks a third National to go with Lucius (1979) and Hallo Dandy (1984). Classy but would not want ground to dry much more. Stable emerged from lean spell with good win on Thursday. Doughty has completed seven times out of eight.

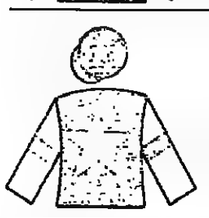
GHOFAR
Jockey: Hywel Davies
High class at best but has only one win in the last three seasons. Trainer David Elsworth, successful with Rhyme 'N' Reason in 1988, fancies him, though, and has recruited fellow National winner Davies (Last Suspect, 1985), to ride. (National form: -,0,-).

MIGHTY FALCON
Jockey: Paul Holley
David Elsworth's second string to Ghofar. Outside chance only despite recent win at Wincanton. Badly handicapped and doubts about stamina are minus marks. Elsworth will need to work all his considerable magic before this falcon swoops to conquer.

ROMANY KING
Jockey: Richard Guest
Toby Balding's second string to Cool Ground but this talented chaser is more than just a makeweight. Sound jumper fairly treated at the weights but not certain to get the trip. Possibilities if he stays. First National ride for Guest.

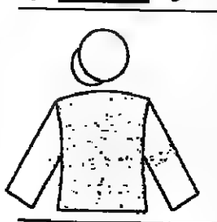
WHATS THE CRACK
Jockey: Jamie Osborne
First National runner for Henrietta Knight, attempting to become only the second woman – after Jenny Pitman – to train a National winner. Sound jumper, good form at best but has never won a handicap. Each-way chance, though, if the ground dries.

GOLDEN FOX
Jockey: Simon Earle
Outsider representing former jockey Gerry Enright. Three moderate runs this season suggest he has a massive task ahead of him, particularly as he will not have his favoured fast ground. One for confirmed optimists.

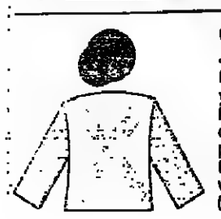


MISTER ED
Jockey: Derrick Morris
Usually in his element on the smaller southern circuits giving weight to lesser rivals. Not as hair-raising a jumper as he used to be, but still capable of errors. Even his chatty television namesake would be hard-pressed to talk up his chance.

ROWLANDSONS JEWELS
Jockey: Graham Bradley
Stamina is no problem and will handle any ground but a tendency to jumping errors suggests the National will stretch him. Also runs his share of moderate races despite a respectable winning record overall. Unlikely to sparkle here.

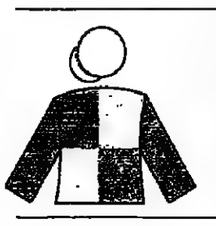


WHY SO HASTY
Jockey: Billy Worthington
Haste is the last thing that springs to mind. One of the the worst handicapped horses in the race and his price – expect around 250-1 – reflects it. Only realistic ambition is to complete the course and that is no mean challenge in itself.

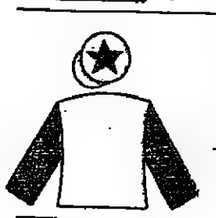


GOLDEN MINSTREL
Jockey: Eamon Murphy
Distant seventh to Seagram last year, staying on stoutly after getting behind at halfway. Could well complete again but at 13 will probably need to do it in his own time. Trained by Josh Gifford, a winner in 1981 with Aldaniti. (National form: -,-,7).

NEW HALEN
Jockey: Robert Bellamy
Going well when falling at the 23rd last year. Has struggled to find his form in a largely disappointing season but hinted at return to his best last time. Outsider but it would be no suprise if he proved to be one of the better longshots.



ROYAL BATTERY
Jockey: Roddy Greene
Second string to Seagram. Laden with stamina but probably lacks the required finishing speed, even at this distance. Inconsistent to boot, although in his favour he is likely to be plugging on when others have had enough.



WILLSFORD
Jockey: Michael Bowlby
Won Midlands National two seasons ago. Reaching his peak as Mrs Pitman seeks a second National after Corbiere (1983).

Verdict: 1. Docklands Express: 2. Stay On Tracks: 3. Cool Ground: 4. Brown Windsor.

The Times guide to the Grand National: Mandarin previews the big race

Cool Ground weighted to complete big double

MANDARIN

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

IT IS 58 years since Golden Miller became the first horse to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the Grand National in the same year.

I believe **COOL GROUND** can follow in his footsteps at Liverpool today, just 12 months after Garrison Savannah went so close to landing the famous double last spring.

Docklands Express, Twin Oaks and **Brown Windsor**, three other class horses in the field, are taken to fill the minor placings, while **Royal Battery** is nominated as the best outsider.

From a handicapper's point of view, Cool Ground will never have a better chance with only 11st 11b to carry.

He has been set to give Twin Oaks 7lb in the Scottish National in light of his achievement at Cheltenham.

Today, he will be receiving 6lb from him because this handicap was framed long before he won the Gold Cup. On that occasion a reportedly below-par Twin Oaks was eight-and-a-half lengths adrift in third place.

Much has been made of the fact that Cool Ground had a hard race in the Gold Cup. However, he has had three weeks in which to recover from Cheltenham and I also have his trainer Toby Balding's assurance that he has thrived in the meantime.

His form this season has certainly been progressive. Having already won the National with Highland Wedding and Little Polveir, Balding knows what he is required.

Twin Oaks, a free-running, bold jumper, who has the physique to carry 11st 7lb, has had tremendous success at Haydock these past two seasons.

That does not mean that he will not be equally effective at Liverpool now that he has shaken off the effects of a virus that was troubling him last time when he only managed third place behind Cool Ground and Kildimo in the Greenalls Gold Cup.

On the face of it, that was not a bad performance since he was endeavouring to give the subsequent Gold Cup winner 7lb.

Nevertheless, the odds look stacked against Twin Oaks today as he will be meeting Cool Ground on only 1lb better terms.

Balding: chasing third National win

Docklands Express, who is also said to have flourished since finishing third in the Gold Cup, has a length to make up on Cool Ground on 1lb worse terms.

Before he ran in the National last year, his trainer Kim Bailey, who won the race in 1990 with Mr Frisk, predicted that Docklands Express would either win or fall at the first.

Sadly, he was right on the second count. Basically, *though, Docklands Express is* a good jumper who should be there or thereabouts at the finish.

Brown Windsor, who has also won a Whitbread Gold Cup, has had a different campaign this year compared with the one that preceded his fourth behind Mr Frisk two years ago.

In hindsight, his trainer Nicky Henderson now feels that he'd gone over the top by the time that he got to Liverpool that year following a very hard race in the Cathcart at Cheltenham.

This time Brown Windsor enters the fray as fresh as new paint following a deliberately light campaign that culminated in a victory at Sandown four weeks ago.

He has shown that he can jump around Liverpool and he will be ridden by Richard Dunwoody, who partnered *West Tip to that famous victory* in 1986. Brown Windsor will also be wearing blinkers for the first time in the hope that they will put an additional edge on him.

So too will **Bonanza Boy**, who finished fifth last year. Like last year's winner, Seagram, Bonanza Boy has been most disappointing this season.

Auntie Dot and Over The Road, who finished third and fourth respectively behind Seagram and Garrison Savannah 12 months ago, will *also be in action again. Of the* two, I prefer Auntie Dot as Over The Road met with a bit of a setback after his last race.

Also, the ground is unlikely to be soft enough for Over The Road, an observation that also applies to **Laura's Beau**, the most fancied of the Irish challengers.

As **Party Politics** could not beat either Cool Ground or Twin Oaks at Haydock last time, it is difficult to envisage him doing so now.

Martin Pipe has worked numerous miracles in his time. He will surely surpass all those achievements if he manages to win today's race with last year's Irish National winner, Omerta, who has not raced this season.

While two-and-a-half miles is arguably **Romany King's** best trip, he should prove a good second string for Toby Balding, while Chris Grant can enjoy another fine ride on **Stay On Tracks**.

GRAND NATIONAL RUNNERS AND RIDERS BBC1

4.00 MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL
(Handicap: grade III: £99,943: 4m 4f) (40 runners)

401 1P-P113 TWIN OAKS 35 (BF,G,S) (J Moreton) G Richards 12-11-7 ..... N Doughty 91
402 654UP5 SEAGRAM 14 (CD,F,G,S) (Sir Eric Parker) D Barons 12-11-4 ..... N Hawke 86
403 232513 DOCKLANDS EXPRESS 23 (F,G,S) (R Baines) K Bailey 10-11-2 ..... P Scudamore 97
404 P21011 COOL GROUND 23 (G,S) (Whitcombe Manor Racing Stables Ltd) G Balding 10-11-1 M Lynch ● 99
405 5444P0 BONANZA BOY 21 (B,F,G,S) (News International) M Pipe 11-10-11 ..... S Smith Eccles 80
406 024062 ROC DE PRINCE 35 (G,S) (Mrs D Thompson) T Walsh (Ire) 9-10-9 ..... B Sheridan 84
407 214/051 BROWN WINDSOR 28 (B,F,G,S) (W Shand Kydd) N Henderson 10-10-8 ..... R Dunwoody 90
408 1P-2265 PARTY POLITICS 35 (F,G,S) (Mrs D Thompson) N Gaselee 8-10-7 ..... C Llewellyn 87
409 311240 AUNTIE DOT 23 (F,G,S) (Mrs R Wilson) J Webber 11-10-7 ..... M Dwyer 84
410 6P/1125- OMERTA 343 (G,S) (Mrs E McMorrow) M Pipe 12-10-4 ..... L Wyer 84
411 111334 ROMANY KING 23 (G,S) (L Garrett) G Balding 8-10-3 ..... R Guest 90
412 5P21-P3 HUNTWORTH 11 (F,G,S) (A Walter) M Pipe 12-10-0 ..... M Richards 82
413 P1/P343 WILLSFORD 21 (B,D,BF,G,S) (A Kaplan) Mrs J Pitman 9-10-0 ..... M Bowlby 88
414 024336 GHOFAR 42 (B,F,G,S) (Sir Hugh Dundas) D Elsworth 9-10-0 ..... H Davies 82
415 44P565 WHATS THE CRACK 23 (B,G) (J Wright) Miss H Knight 9-10-0 ..... J Osborne 84
416 1P06B2 RAWHIDE 34 (B,G,S) (Mrs H McCalmont) M Morris (Ire) 8-10-0 ..... K O'Brien 84
417 110540 KARAKTER REFERENCE 42 (F,G) (Mrs R Doorgachum) R O'Sullivan 10-10-0 D O'Sullivan 77
418 3325P1 LAURA'S BEAU 21 (B,G,S) (J McManus) F Berry (Ire) 8-10-0 ..... C O'Dwyer 94
419 223113 STAY ON TRACKS 49 (F,G,S) (P Piller) W A Stephanson 10-10-0 ..... C Grant 81
420 P14620 ROWLANDSONS JEWELS 23 (F,G,S) (Rowlandsons Ltd) D Murray Smith 11-10-0 G Bradley 85
421 5-22005 CLONEY GRANGE 18 (B,F,S) (E O'Dwyer) J O'Connor (Ire) 13-10-0 ..... D O'Connor 74
422 121200 SIRRAH JAY 2 (F,G,S) (J Gale) G Balding 12-10-0 ..... R Beggan 87
423 43-0333 OVER THE ROAD 10 (G,S) (J Upson) J Upson 11-10-0 ..... R Supple 80
424 064U02 NEW HALEN 14 (F,G,S) (Mrs S Sivitar) A James 11-10-0 ..... R Bellamy 81
425 4P-31F0 HOTPLATE 21 (G,S) (W Bellamy (Bakers) Ltd) D McCain 9-10-0 ..... G McCourt 79
426 6-13P32 MISTER ED 33 (BF,F,G,S) (The Talking Horse Partnership) R Curtis 9-10-0 ..... D Morris 79
427 423435 GOLDEN MINSTREL 25 (F,G,S) (W Gale) J Gifford 13-10-0 ..... E Murphy 75
428 431221 OLD APPLEJACK 21 (F,G,S) (G Tobitt) J Johnson 12-10-0 ..... A Orkney 79
429 0-21245 RUBIKA 32 (G,S) (T Hemmings) S Mellor 9-10-0 ..... P Niven 74
430 631416 ROYAL BATTERY 21 (G,S) (Mrs P Cottle) D Barons 9-10-0 ..... R Greene 70
431 444160 TEAM CHALLENGE 25 (B,F,G,S) (Mrs E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 10-10-0 ..... B de Haan 73
432 202224 JUST SO 21 (S) (H Cole) P Nicholls 9-10-0 ..... S Burrough 83
433 211-335 GOLDEN FOX 15 (B,F,G) (Mrs K Lyons) G Enright 10-10-0 ..... S Earle 64
434 453261 RADICAL LADY 14 (F,G,S) (N Mason (Farms) Ltd) G Moore 8-10-0 ..... J Callaghan 69
435 144301 MIGHTY FALCON 8 (B,F,G,S) (R Tory) D Elsworth 7-10-0 ..... P Holley 70
436 1P42-PP STEARSBY 47 (G,S) (S Flurry) P Leach 13-10-0 ..... S Mackey 50
437 P34550 KITTINGER 24 (F,G,S) (J Lammiman) A Turnell 11-10-0 ..... I Lawrence 82
438 40-3P30 FOREST RANGER 23 (F,S) (K Al-Said) J Edwards 10-10-0 ..... D Tegg 85
439 PP02PP WHY SO HASTY 12 (F,S) (Black Horse Racing) M Chapman 11-10-0 ..... W Worthington 57
440 42P3RP HONEYBEER MEAD 21 (G) (B Ryall) B Ryall 10-10-0 ..... — 57

Long handicap: Huntworth 9-13, Willsford 9-11, Ghofar 9-11, Whats The Crack, Rawhide 9-9, Karakter Reference 9-9, Laura's Beau 9-9, Stay On Tracks 9-8, Rowlandsons Jewels 9-8, Cloney Grange 9-6, Sirrah Jay 9-6, Over The Road 9-5, New Halen 9-2, Hotplate 9-1, Mister Ed 9-1, Golden *Minstrel 9-0, Old Applejack 8-13, Rubika 8-13, Royal Battery 8-12, Team Challenge 8-12, Just So 8-*11, Golden Fox 8-9, Mighty Falcon 8-6, Stearsby 8-6, Kittinger 8-5, Forest Ranger 8-5, Why So Hasty 8-5, Honeybeer Mead 8-5.

BETTING: 8-1 Docklands Express, 9-1 Cool Ground, 10-1 Twin Oaks, 11-1 Brown Windsor, 12-1 Auntie Dot, Laura's Beau, 16-1 Romany King, 18-1 Party Politics, Over The Road, Stay On *Tracks, 20-1 Whats The Crack, Willsford, 33-1 Ghofar, Rubika, 40-1 Bonanza Boy, 1 Hotplate, Roc* De Prince, Seagram, 50-1 Huntworth, Just So, Omerta, Royal Battery, 66-1 Karakter Reference, New Halen, Old Applejack, Rawhide, Rowlandsons Jewels, Sirrah Jay, 100-1 Mighty Falcon, Mister Ed, Radical Lady, Team Challenge, 150-1 Golden Fox, Golden Minstrel, 200-1 Cloney Grange, Forest Ranger, Honeybeer Mead, Kittinger, 250-1 Stearsby, Why So Hasty.

1991: SEAGRAM 11-10-6 N Hawke (12-1) D Barons 40 ran

Comprehensive form guide for all the Grand National contestants

TWIN OAKS
Feb 29, Haydock, good to soft: see COOL GROUND
Jan 18, Haydock, good: (11-10) beat Gold Options (10-10) 5l with ROMANY KING (10-10) sh hd 3rd and AUNTIE DOT (10-10) 7l 4th (3m, grade II, limited h'cap chase, £16,200, 8 ran)
Jan 4, Haydock, good: (12-0) beat Toureen Prince (10-13) 20l (3m, h'cap chase, £5,800, 9 ran)
Dec 21, Chepstow, good to soft: see PARTY POLITICS

SEAGRAM
Mar 21, Newbury, good to firm: (11-2) 19½l 5th to Arctic Call (12-0) (3m, h'cap chase, £5,118, 6 ran).
Mar 12, Cheltenham, good: see ROMANY KING
Feb 29, Haydock, good to soft: see COOL GROUND
Feb 14, Sandown, good: (12-0) 16½l 4th to Gambling Royal *(10-4) with WHATS THE CRACK (11-3) 5½l 8th (3m 118yd,* h'cap chase, £3,600, 8 ran).

DOCKLANDS EXPRESS
Mar 12, Cheltenham, good: see COOL GROUND
Feb 22, Kempton, good to firm: (11-10) beat Pegwell Bay (11-03) 1l with ROMANY KING (10-10) ½ 3rd, BROWN WINDSOR (11-1) 21l 5th, GHOFAR (10-4) 4l 6th and KARAKTER REFERENCE (10-0) 19½l 7th (3m, grade III h'cap chase, £31,875, 11 ran).
Apr 27, Sandown, good to firm: (10-3) ¾l 2nd to Caverhillshow (11-2) but placed 1st with SEAGRAM (10-6) 5½l 4th, OMERTA (10-1) 10l 5th and BONANZA BOY (11-7) pulled up.

COOL GROUND
Mar 12, Cheltenham, good: (12-0) beat The Fellow (12-0) sh hd with DOCKLANDS EXPRESS (12-0) 1l 3rd (3m 2f, grade I chase, £96,028, 8 ran).
Feb 29, Haydock, good to soft, (11-3) beat Kildimo (10-2) 11½l with TWIN OAKS (11-10) 7l 3rd, WILLSFORD (10-0) 1½l 4th, PARTY POLITICS (10-9) hd 5th and SEAGRAM *(10-6) unseated rider (3m 4f, h'cap chase, £24,086, 11 ran).*
Feb 15, Newcastle, good: see JUST SO
Dec 21, Chepstow, good to soft: see PARTY POLITICS
Apr 1, Fairyhouse, good to yielding: see OMERTA

BONANZA BOY
Mar 14, Uttoxeter, soft, see LAURA'S BEAU
Dec 21, Chepstow, good to soft: see PARTY POLITICS
Apr 27, Sandown, good to firm: see DOCKLANDS EXPRESS

ROC DE PRINCE
Feb 16, Leopardstown, yielding: see LAURA'S BEAU
Jan 23, Gowran Park, good: see RAWHIDE
Apr 1, Fairyhouse, good to yielding: see OMERTA

BROWN WINDSOR
Mar 7, Sandown, good to firm: (11-10) beat The Leggett (10-10) 3l with GOLDEN FOX (10-0) 6l 3rd (3m 118yd, h'cap chase, £4,184, 5 ran).
Feb 22, Kempton, good to firm: see DOCKLANDS EXPRESS
Feb 1, Sandown, good to firm: see GHOFAR

PARTY POLITICS
Feb 29, Haydock, good to soft: see COOL GROUND
Jan 4, Sandown, good, see ROWLANDSONS JEWELS
Dec 21, Chepstow, good to soft: (10-7) 20l 2nd to Carvills Hill (12-2) with BONANZA BOY (11-5) 20l 4th and COOL GROUND (11-6), TWIN OAKS (11-2), WHATS THE CRACK (10-0) and MISTER ED (10-1) all pulled up (3m 6f, grade III h'cap chase, £23,654, 17 ran).

AUNTIE DOT
Mar 12, Cheltenham, good: see ROMANY KING
Jan 18, Haydock, good: see TWIN OAKS
Dec 26, Wolverhampton, good: (11-10) 3l 2nd to Golden Celtic (11-5) with NEW HALEN (10-7) 25l 5th and KITTINGER (10-7) pulled up.

OMERTA
Apr 27, Sandown, good to firm, see DOCKLANDS EXPRESS
Apr 20, Ayr, good: (9-8) 5l 2nd to Killone Abbey (10-0) with OVER THE ROAD (10-0) 2½l 3rd, MISTER ED (10-0) 10½l 6th, TEAM CHALLENGE (10-0) 11 7th, JUST SO (9-13) 12l 12th and RUBIKA (10-0) 8l 15th (4m 120yd, grade III h'cap chase, £37,010, 18 ran)
Apr 1, Fairyhouse, good to yielding, (10-9) beat Cahervillahow (11-12) sh hd with COOL GROUND (12-0) distance away 3rd, ROC DE PRINCE (11-8) tailed off 9th, *RAWHIDE (10-0) fell and CLONEY GRANGE (10-7) pulled* up (3m 5f, listed limited h'cap chase, £55,200, 22 ran)

ROMANY KING
Mar 12, Cheltenham, good (11-8) 8½l 4th to Tipping Tim *(10-0) with WHATS THE CRACK (10-13) 1½l 5th, FOREST* RANGER (10-0) 6l 7th, ROWLANDSONS JEWELS (10-11) 5l 8th, AUNTIE DOT (11-3) tailed off 9th and SEAGRAM (11-10) pulled up.
Feb 22, Kempton, good to firm see DOCKLAND EXPRESS
Jan 18, Haydock, good: see TWIN OAKS

HUNTWORTH
Mar 24, Sandown, good (11-07) 17 1/2l 3rd to Tug Of Gold (10-04) (3m 118yd, h'cap chase, £3,474, 7 ran)
Mar 10, Cheltenham, good: see GOLDEN MINSTREL
May 12, Warwick, firm (10-12) beat Joint Sovereignty (10-12) (3m 1f, conditions chase, £4,659, 4 ran)

WILLSFORD
Mar 14, Uttoxeter, soft: see LAURA'S BEAU
Feb 29, Haydock, good to soft, see COOL GROUND

GHOFAR
Feb 22, Kempton, good to firm: see DOCKLANDS EXPRESS
Feb 15, Windsor, good (11-12) 21½l 3rd to Toby Tobias (11-12) (3m, conditions chase, £5,150, 4 ran)
Feb 1, Sandown, good to firm: (10-7) ½l 3rd to Espy (10-7) with KARAKTER REFERENCE (10-4) 5l 4th, ROWLANDSONS JEWELS (10-7) 22l 6th and BROWN WINDSOR (10-11) 23l 8th (3m 118yd, grade II limited h'cap chase, £19,020, 9 ran)

WHATS THE CRACK
Mar 12, Cheltenham, good, see ROMANY KING
Feb 14, Sandown, good: see SEAGRAM
Jan 1, Cheltenham, good, see RUBIKA
Dec 21, Chepstow, good to soft see PARTY POLITICS

RAWHIDE
Mar 1, Fairyhouse, soft, (11-3) 1l 2nd to Lacken Beau (10-8) (3m 1f, extended h'cap chase, £4,140, 11 ran).
Jan 23, Gowran Park, good: (10-13) 18l 6th to Grand Habri (10-0) with ROC DE PRINCE (12-0) 32l 11th (3m 2f 70yd, listed limited h'cap chase, £14,375, 18 ran).

KARAKTER REFERENCE
Feb 22, Kempton, good to firm: see DOCKLANDS EXPRESS
Feb 1, Sandown, good to firm: see GHOFAR
Jan 11, Ascot, good to firm: (11-5) 21½l 5th to For The Gram (11-1) (2m 4f, h'cap chase, £11,592, 8 ran)

LAURA'S BEAU
Mar 14, Uttoxeter, soft (10-8) beat Mr Boston (10-0) 4l with WILLSFORD (10-10) 4l 3rd, JUST SO (10-0) 20l 4th, ROYAL BATTERY (9-9) 32l 6th, BONANZA BOY (11-10) tailed off 7th, HONEYBEER MEAD (10-1) and WHY SO HASTY (10-0) both pulled up
Mar 10, Cheltenham, good: see GOLDEN MINSTREL
Feb 16, Leopardstown, yielding: (12-0) 34l 5th to Carvills Hill with ROC DE PRINCE (12-0) 3l 6th (3m, listed chase, £43,125, 10 ran)

STAY ON TRACKS
Feb 15, Newcastle, good see JUST SO
Jan 11, Newcastle, good to firm, (11-7) beat Samten (10-0) 8l (3m 6f, h cap chase, £2,685, 3 ran).
Dec 26, Wetherby, good to soft, (10-0) beat Kings Fountain (11-4) ¾l (3m 100yd, h'cap chase, £16,667, 5 ran)

ROWLANDSONS JEWELS
Mar 12, Cheltenham, good see ROMANY KING
Feb 1, Sandown, good to firm, see GHOFAR
Jan 4, Sandown, good to firm (10-4) 13l 4th to disqualified *On The Twist (10-0) with PARTY POLITICS (10-12) 5½l* 6th

CLONEY GRANGE
Mar 17, Leopardstown, yielding (10-7) distance 5th to Lanigans Wine (9-8) (3m, extended h'cap chase, £4,140, 6 ran)
Feb 22, Punchestown, good to yielding (11-2) distance 10th to Bishop s Staff (9-7) (3m 2f 110yd, listed extended h'cap chase, £9,660, 14 ran)

SIRRAH JAY
Apr 2, Liverpool, soft (11-9) 14l 7th to The Antarctic (10-2) (2m 6f, h'cap chase, £17,725 26 ran)
Mar 11, Cheltenham, good see KITTINGER
Feb 21, Kempton, good to firm (12-2) 1½l 2nd to Worthy Knight (10-2) (2m 4f, h'cap chase £2,872, 6 ran)

OVER THE ROAD
Mar 25, Worcester, good to soft (12-0) 7½l 3rd to Deep *Colonist (11-9) (3m h'cap chase, £2,947, 12 ran)*
Feb 8, Uttoxeter, good, (11-11) 10½l 3rd to Pial Reay (10-0) with NEW HALEN (10-12) unseated rider and WHY SO HASTY (10-11) pulled up (2m 6f, h'cap chase, £7,589, 15 ran)
Apr 20, Ayr, good see OMERTA

NEW HALEN
Mar 21, Bangor, soft: see RADICAL LADY
Mar 11, Cheltenham, good see KITTINGER
Feb 8, Uttoxeter, good see OVER THE ROAD
Dec 26, Wolverhampton, good see AUNTIE DOT

HOTPLATE
Mar 14, Chepstow, soft (11-7) tailed off 7th to Errant Knight (9-9) (2m 4f, amateur riders' h'cap chase, £2,005, 8 ran)
Feb 28, Newbury, good: see MIGHTY FALCON

MISTER ED
Mar 2, Windsor, good see ROYAL BATTERY
Dec 21, Chepstow, good to soft: see PARTY POLITICS
Apr 20, Ayr, good, see OMERTA

GOLDEN MINSTREL
Mar 10, Cheltenham, good (9-9) 12l 5th to Tug Of Gold (10-2) with TEAM CHALLENGE (10-4) tailed off 12th, HUNTWORTH (11-10) and LAURA'S BEAU (11-8) pulled up.
Feb 17, Fontwell, good see TEAM CHALLENGE

OLD APPLEJACK
Mar 14, Newcastle, firm (11-10) beat Over The Deel (10-7) nk (3m, h'cap chase, £2,636, 3 ran)
Mar 7, Doncaster, good to firm (11-9) sh hd 2nd to Eight Springs (10-9) (2m 4f, h'cap chase, £3,590, 6 ran).

RUBIKA
Mar 3, Warwick, good to soft (11-0) 26l 5th to Combermere (10-12) with TEAM CHALLENGE (10-13) 2½l 6th (3m 5f, h'cap chase, 10 ran)
Feb 15, Newcastle, good, see JUST SO
Jan 25, Ayr, good (11-7) 2½l 2nd to Carousel Rocket (10-0) with RADICAL LADY (11-2) 8l 3rd (4m 120yd, h'cap chase, £2,746, 8 ran)
Jan 1, Cheltenham, good (10-3) beat HONEYBEER MEAD (10-0) 2½l with WHATS THE CRACK (11-0) 7l 5th, ROYAL BATTERY (10-5) hd 6th and JUST SO (10-3) 7l 8th (4m, h'cap chase, £5,150, 10 ran)

ROYAL BATTERY
Mar 14, Uttoxeter, soft see LAURA'S BEAU
Mar 2, Windsor, good (11-1) beat MISTER ED (11-9) 3½l (3m 4f, h'cap chase, £2,790, 9 ran)
Feb 17, Fontwell, good to soft: see TEAM CHALLENGE
Jan 1, Cheltenham, good see RUBIKA

TEAM CHALLENGE
Mar 10, Cheltenham, good see GOLDEN MINSTREL
Mar 3, Warwick, good to soft: see RUBIKA
Feb 17, Fontwell, good to soft (11-6) beat Bonsai Bud (11-4) 7l with ROYAL BATTERY (11-5) 15l 4th and STEARSBY (10-9) pulled up (3m 2f 100yd, h'cap chase, £2,794, 5 ran)
Apr 20, Ayr, good see OMERTA

JUST SO
Mar 14, Uttoxeter, soft see LAURA'S BEAU
Feb 15, Newcastle, good (10-2) ½l 2nd to David's Duke (9-7) with STAY ON TRACKS (10-3) 3l 3rd, RUBIKA (10-0) 15l 4th and COOL GROUND (11-10) tailed off 7th (4m 1f, h cap chase, £10,464, 13 ran)
Feb 1 Chepstow, soft: see COOL GROUND
Jan 1, Cheltenham, good see RUBIKA
Apr 20, Ayr, good see OMERTA

GOLDEN FOX
Mar 20, Newbury, good (10-9) tailed off 5th to Topsham Bay (10-13) (3m 2f 88yd, h'cap chase, £4,078, 8 ran)
Mar 7, Sandown, good to firm see BROWN WINDSOR

RADICAL LADY
Mar 21, Bangor, soft (10-7) beat NEW HALEN (10-5) 6l (2m 4f, h'cap chase, £3,111, 6 ran)
Feb 21, Kelso, good to soft (11-4) 29l 6th to Deep Colonist (11-0) (3m 4f, amateur riders' h'cap chase, £3,534, 12 ran)
Jan 25, Ayr, good, see RUBIKA

MIGHTY FALCON
Mar 27, Wincanton, good (10-12) beat Banker's Gossip (10-2) 6l (3m 1f, good, h'cap chase, 6 ran).
Feb 28, Newbury, good (11-01) tailed off 6th to Tom Troubador (10-07) (3m, h'cap chase, £3,866, 13 ran)

STEARSBY
Feb 17, Fontwell, good to soft see TEAM CHALLENGE
Apr 19, Ayr, good (11-11) 15l 2nd to Mystic Music (11-6) (3m 100yd, hunter chase, £2,448, 7 ran)

KITTINGER
Mar 11, Cheltenham, good, (10-0) 34l 11th to Ellast (11-0) with NEW HALEN (10-7) tailed off 15th and SIRRAH JAY (11-4) 18th (2m 4f, h'cap chase, £21,785, 18 ran)
Feb 29, Newbury, good (10-0) tailed off 5th to Laundryman (10-08) (2m 4f, h'cap chase, £8,448, 7 ran).

FOREST RANGER
Mar 12, Cheltenham, good see ROMANY KING
Feb 12, Folkestone, soft (12-0) 15l 3rd to Pamber Priory (11-5) (3m 2f, h'cap chase, £2,156, 9 ran)

WHY SO HASTY
Mar 23, Hexham, heavy (12-0) pulled up behind Grey Minstrel (10-12) (2m 4f, h'cap chase, £2,071, 7 ran)
Mar 14, Uttoxeter, soft see LAURA'S BEAU
Feb 8, Uttoxeter, good, see OVER THE ROAD

HONEYBEER MEAD
Mar 14, Uttoxeter, soft see LAURA'S BEAU
Feb 15, Newcastle, good: see JUST SO
Jan 1, Cheltenham, good see RUBIKA

Selection: COOL GROUND

Morley Street can land hurdle treble

AS A prelude to his assault on the Grand National, Toby Balding can win the Martell Aintree Hurdle again with **Morley Street** (Mandarin writes).

The former champion hurdler has been triumphant on the corresponding occasion for the past two seasons following the 1989 victory of stable companion Beech Road.

In hindsight, Morley Street was not at his best when he finished only sixth in last month's Champion Hurdle, which obviously *came too* soon after a setback. Since Cheltenham, though, his preparation for today's race has gone without a hitch.

Katabatic, Redundant Pal and Master Rajh, who finished second, fourth and fifth behind Remittance Man in the Queen Mother Champion Chase, reoppose in the *Martell Aintree Chase. How*ever, I prefer **Last 'O' The Bunch**, who sidestepped Cheltenham to wait for today after winning the Timeform *Chase at Haydock.*

Easy Buck, my choice for the Cordon Bleu Handicap Hurdle, is far from harshly treated, judged on his close second to the subsequent Imperial Cup winner King Credo at Fontwell earlier in the season.

Case for Brown Windsor

BY JACK WATERMAN

STATISTICS are not the only method of finding the winner of the Grand National but a study of past trends can be helpful.

Weight

THE most significant statistic *for this afternoon's Nat*ional is that over the past decade every winner but one has carried a handicap weight above 10 stone, ranging from Grittar's 11st 5lb ten years ago to Hallo Dandy's 10st 2lb. The exception was Little Polveir, who was originally handicapped at 9st 7lb.

This means that the top bracket of only 11 out of the field of 40, from Romany King up to Twin Oaks, should have the best chance of producing the winner.

Favourites

FROM a betting point of view, favourites have a poor record. Grittar is the only success in recent years; of the other winners in the past decade there have been one 50-1 shot, two at 28-1, but, more important, the remaining six, like Grittar, were well-backed, at odds ranging from 10-1 to 16-1.

National form

A FALL at Aintree is no bar to subsequent victory as West Tip proved by his 1986 triumph and remarkable consistency after that: so, supporters of Docklands Express need not read too much into that horse's first fence exit last year.

Conversely, only Red Rum in recent years has won the National again, although others have tried unsuccessfully and Seagram makes the *attempt today.*

Jockeys

JOCKEYS with the best National records are Peter Scudamore who has completed the course eight times, though has yet to win; Richard Dunwoody (one win, and finished four other times), Neale Doughty (one win and finished six other times) and Chris Grant (runner-up three times and finished on three other occasions).

Henderson: can win with Brown Windsor

Distance

A FINAL factor to consider is a horse's ability to stay extreme distances as demonstrated by nine of the past ten winners.

Summing up from these factors, the Nicky Henderson-trained Brown Windsor, fourth in the race two years ago, is taken to win from Docklands Express and Twin Oaks, with Omerta a possible outsider.

Racing next week

MONDAY: Wolverhampton, Kelso.
TUESDAY: Pontefract, Southwell
WEDNESDAY: Ripon, Ascot, Ludlow.
THURSDAY: Hamilton Park, Taunton.
FRIDAY: Newbury, Thirsk, Ayr.
SATURDAY: Newbury, Thirsk, Ayr, Bangor, Stratford.
Flat meetings in bold

See Life And Times

Rival coaches expect a closely-fought encounter in the 138th Boat Race

Oxford have the edge in a conflict of styles

BY MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

STEVE Royle and John Wilson, the Oxford and Cambridge coaches, agreed on one thing on the eve of the 138th Boat Race. In Wilson's words: "It is going to be very, very close."

Three weeks ago, such a comment would have been less likely. Cambridge were settled, showing pace and beating good crews. Oxford were in the doldrums, having just lost the Reading Head.

Royle and his fellow coach, Pat Sweeney, grasped the nettle, changed nearly half of the crew, and Oxford became the ultimate late developers of recent years. Today will reveal whether that development has been sufficient for Oxford to win their sixteenth Boat Race in 17 years.

Form would suggest that Cambridge will lead off the start, as they did last year, and Oxford seem to almost accept that fact.

If the weather forecasters are correct, the vital Fulham to Harrods stretch, where Oxford pushed and Cambridge faltered in 1991, is likely to be rough today and Cambridge are prepared for it.

Their American-built boat is fitted with a water-resisting strip and an internal pump. Oxford's German boat sports no such luxuries.

The crews are well matched, each with potential race winners and each with the odd question mark. In Oxford's case, Calman Maclennan and Peter Bridge in the engine room are a bonus, both of them aiming for Olympic selection.

Royle has placed his three least experienced oarsmen in vital seats. Simon Davy, at No. 7, Kingsley Poole, at bow, and Ian Gardiner, at stroke.

Gardiner has never experienced a 4¼-mile race and began rowing only two years ago after competitive swimming. It was his inclusion that largely transformed Oxford after Reading.

The Cambridge line-up has perhaps less obvious leading lights and Wilson admits that the group are "more experienced as a crew than as individuals". The potential individual race winners are there, nevertheless.

Donald Fawcett holds the middle together and the stroke. Dirk Bangert, the Boat Race's first German, showed against Molesey and in the trial eight that he is a great "driver" of a crew.

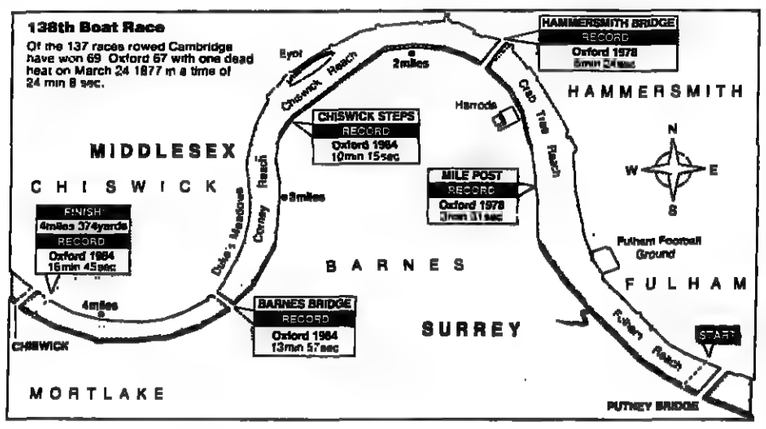
The vital cox's seat provides the greatest contrast in the race this year. Andrew Probert, Cambridge's Great Britain international, is the most experienced Boat Race steersman on record while Oxford's Elizabeth Chick, born into a Warrington rowing family, has been in rowing boats since she was 13 and has excelled in training.

Today's crews are very different in style. Cambridge seem to produce speed with less apparent effort than Oxford. Oxford, however, have a toughness and bite about them and have already demonstrated, when they raced London University, that they do not panic when in arrears.

If Cambridge are going to win, they will have to be well ahead by Harrods. I have my doubts about that and Oxford's American president, Joe Michels, is likely to receive the Beefeater Trophy from his United States ambassador, Raymond Seitz, at the finish.

TODAY'S RACES. 2.05pm: Isis v Goldie. 2.35pm: Oxford v Cambridge.

Calm before the storm: the Cambridge crew is put through its final preparations at Putney before taking on Oxford in the 138th Boat Race today



A course of twists and turns

THE Boat Race course meanders around a series of bends and is held on a high tide, giving the impression of plenty of room for manoeuvre (Mike Rosewell writes).

Casual spectators are perhaps bemused to see the two coxes battling for one strip of water, quite often around the outside of a bend.

In reality, this apparently wide course is very narrow for a crew that wants to win. Its cox must stay in the channel where the tide is strongest and this, over much of the course, is less than the width of two crews racing level.

Out of it, there are "flats" — as at Fulham — containing slower moving water. If the cox wanders, four oars will be in faster water than the other four, causing a lack of rhythm.

Tidal problems apart, the course consists of severe bends. The first bend favours the Middlesex crew but there is then a two-mile advantage to Surrey before Middlesex again receives the advantage. Two crews of exactly the same speed should, theoretically, finish level.

Bert Green and Jim Cobb, two watermen elders, are the cox advisers to Oxford and Cambridge respectively.

Even they admit to less than total knowledge of the historic course and its moods. Its character changes, more so recently as it is silting up.

TODAY'S BOAT RACE CREWS

OXFORD

Bow: Kingsley Poole (Magdalen College School and St John's), age 22, 6ft 3in, 13st 4lb. Nationality: Australian. Home: Oxford. Studying medicine. Honours: 1990 Isis crew.
2. Joseph Michels, president (St John's College HS, Lasalle Univ and University), age 27, 6ft 3in, 13st 2½lb. Nationality: American. Home: Cheverly, Maryland. Studying physics (postgraduate). Honours: 1991 Oxford crew.
3. Boris Mavra (Matematicka Gimnzija, Belgrade, Imperial College, London, and Jesus), age 22, 6ft 5in, 14st 8lb. Nationality: Yugoslav. Home: Belgrade. Studying mathematics (postgraduate). Honours: 1990 Henley winner.
4. Hamish Hume (St Albans, Washington DC, Yale and Pembroke), age 24, 6ft 2in, 13st 2½lb. Nationality: British. Home: Washington DC. Studying law. Honours: 1989-90 Yale crew; 1991 Oxford crew.
5. Peter Bridge (Eton and Oriel), age 19, 6ft 4in, 13st 13½lb. Nationality: British. Home: Crowborough, East Sussex. Studying modern languages. Honours: 1990-1 Henley winner; 1991 Oxford crew; 1991 under-23 GB eight (gold); 1991 GB coxed pair.
6. Calman Maclennan (Camp Hill GS, Keble and Green), age 23, 6ft 6in, 14st 6½lb. Nationality: British. Home: Birmingham. Studying medicine. Honours: 1988 and 1990 Isis crew; 1989 and 1991 Oxford crew; 1990 GB under-23; 1991 Henley winner.
7. Simon Davy (Eton and Worcester), age 21, 6ft 2in, 12st 6lb. Nationality: British. Home: Yelverton, Devon. Studying geography. Honours: 1991 Isis crew.
Stroke: Ian Gardiner (Glasgow Academy and St Peter's), age 20, 6ft, 13st 1lb. Nationality: British. Home: Glasgow. Studying engineering and economics. Honours: 1991 Cherwell crew.
Cox: Elizabeth Chick (Helsby HS and Christ Church), age 20, 5ft 3in, 7st 11½lb. Nationality: British. Home: Warrington, Cheshire. Studying modern languages. Honours: 1991 Oxford lightweights.

☐ The Boat Race was the brainchild of two friends — Charles Merival, who was at Cambridge, and Charles Wordsworth, a nephew of the poet, of Oxford. The first challenge was issued by Cambridge on March 12, 1829.

☐ There have been six sinkings in the Boat Race. Cambridge went down in 1859 and 1978, and Oxford suffered the same fate in 1925. In 1912, both crews sank and the race was renowed two days later. In 1951, Oxford sank near the start and the event was rerun.

CAMBRIDGE

Bow: Max Justicz, president (Westminster Schools Atlanta, Boston Univ and Sidney, Sussex), age 25, 6ft 13st 6½lb. Nationality: British citizen, American resident. Home: Great Witley, Worcester. Studying law (postgraduate). Honours: 1991 Cambridge crew, 1991 Henley winner, 1991 national championships (gold).
2. Nicholas Clarry (John Hampden GS and Jesus) age 20, 6ft 1in, 13st 1lb. Nationality: British. Home: Marlow, Bucks. Studying economics. Honours: 1989 GB junior coxless pair, 1990 GB junior coxless four (gold), 1991 GB under-23 coxless four (silver), 1991 Cambridge crew.
3. James Behrens (Radley, Reading Univ and Downing), age 22, 6ft 5in, 13st 2½lb. Nationality: British. Home: Ripon, North Yorks. Studying economics (postgraduate). Honours: Reading University first eight.
4. Daniel Justicz (Westminster Schools, Atlanta, Harvard and Downing), age 22, 6ft, 13st 3lb. Nationality: British citizen, American resident. Home: Great Witley, Worcester. Studying law (postgraduate). Honours: 1989-90 Eastern sprints champion (Harvard), 1990 and 1991 Henley winner, 1991 under-23 GB eight (gold).
5. Donald Fawcett (Brooks School, Harvard and Magdalene), age 25, 6ft 6in, 15st 4lb. Nationality: American. Home: Tyringham, United States. Studying Anglo-American studies (postgraduate). Honours: 1987 World University Games; 1987-8 United States collegiate rowing champion, 1986-8 winner of Eastern sprints; competed in Harvard-Yale race for four years.
6. David Gillard (Bedford Modern and St Catharine's), age 20, 6ft 2in, 14st 7½lb. Nationality: British. Home: Bedford, Beds. Studying physical natural sciences. Honours: 1989 GB junior world eight (bronze), 1990 GB under-23 world eight (bronze); 1991 GB under-23 world coxless four (silver), 1991 Cambridge crew.
7. Stephen Fowler (Eton and Robinson), age 22, 6ft 2in, 13st 4lb. Nationality: British. Home: Romford, Essex. Studying land economy. Honours: 1990 Cambridge crew; 1991 Goldie crew, 1991 Henley winner.
Stroke: Dirk Bangert (Deutschhaus Gymnasium, Wurzburg, and Fitzwilliam), age 24, 6ft 2in, 12st 10½lb. Nationality: German. Home: Kurmach, Germany. Studying physics (postgraduate). Honours: 1984-5 junior world eight; 1987 Match des Seniors coxless four, 1989 Match des Seniors eight; 1989 Match des Seniors coxless four.
Cox: Andrew Probert (UCS, King's College, London, and Magdalene), age 38, 5ft 7½in, 7st 11lb. Nationality: British. Home: Putney, London. Studying transport (postgraduate). Honours: 1982-4 Henley winner, 1983, 1989 and 1991 GB cox.

GOLF

Sparkling play from Faldo as he gathers string of birdies

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN NEW ORLEANS

NICK Faldo responded to the challenge of surviving the halfway cut in the New Orleans Classic with an enterprising second round on the English Turn course yesterday, after setting out on a cold, bleak morning in joint 85th place, following a first round of 74 in which he dropped six shots at three holes.

Faldo put that behind him with an outward half of 33. He holed a good putt of 15 feet on the first green for a birdie and another of nine feet at the next. Then he played the 6th in textbook fashion and with a sand-wedge approach to six feet gathered his third birdie.

There is no question that Faldo, runner-up in The Players Championship last Sunday, has turned the corner following a run of indifferent performances. He is being inspired, of course, by the thought of moving on from here to Augusta National for the Masters which he hopes to win for a third time in four years.

Faldo, who should now arrive in Georgia in a confident frame of mind, maintained his momentum with further birdies at the 11th and 12th holes. He chipped close at the 11th and hit a marvellous tee shot to within ten inches at the 12th.

In contrast, Sandy Lyle, who took 71 in the first round, found himself facing the prospect of missing the cut for the third time in six tournaments in the United States this year.

Lyle made a horrid start. He began at the 10th and took eight at the 11th. There he pulled his drive in the direction of a waste bunker but the ball could not be found. The mystery did little for Lyle's confidence. He returned to the tee and played the hole well enough but took three putts.

He did hole from 14 feet for a birdie at the 14th and from ten feet to save par at the 18th. Lyle is happier with his general play but he is still disappointed with his putting. He placed himself under additional pressure by dropping another shot at the 2nd, which was his eleventh.

Severiano Ballesteros was out late in the day when he hoped to build on the first round of 67 with which he earned a share of the lead alongside the Americans, Brad Bryant, Chip Beck and Jay Haas.

Bryant, who has earned more than $1 million in 14 years on the US Tour without winning, established the halfway target with a 69 for a 36-hole score of 136, which is eight under par.

Ian Woosnam, who had a first round of 71, was also among the late starters along with José-Maria Olazábal (72), Steve Richardson (73) and Colin Montgomerie (76).

LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES

US unless stated

67: S Ballesteros (Sp), C Beck, J Haas, Brad Bryant. 68: D Rummells, S Gump, J Maggert, D Waldorf, L Hinkle, R Eastwood. 69: N Lancaster, M Standly, R Freeman, F Quinn. 70: G Norman (Aus), L Rinker, K Knox, M Cunning, M Allen, G Hallberg, W Mayfair, J Adams, E Dougherty, M Adcock, M Dawson, D Martin.

71: R Fehr, D Halldorson, B Gardner, I Woosnam (GB), M O'Meara, T Kite, S Pate, T Armour III, R Friend, G Hickman, M Smith, H Twitty, A Lyle (GB), E Fiori, R Davis, K Green, L Wadkins, A Price, O Browne, R Pearson, J Ross. 72: R Black, Bart Bryant, C Parry, C Perry, E Humenik, J Haller, K Triplett, S Utley, J Sindelar, J McGovern, J M Olazábal (Sp), S Skinner, F Funk, F Conner, D Frost, M Donald, J Anderson, J P Hayes.

73: S Richardson (GB), M Springer, J Inman, R Zokol, R Massengale, B Zabriski, P McIntire, B Chamblee, H Sutton, D Ogrin, T Schulz, L Janzen, B Crenshaw, B Britton, D Marchand, K Young, D Peege, E J Pfister. 74: L Roberts, R Wadkins, C Bynum, B Tennyson, D Toms, J Riegger, W Sander, R Clampett, D Campe, N Faldo (GB), S Lamontagne, J Elliott, G Whisman.

75: R Lohr, T Sieckmann, T Byrum, T Sampson, T Balmer, T Tyner, S Armour, S Hart, K Gibson, G Lesher, P Burke, B Bell, R Wolcott, D Edwards, J Delsing, W Levi, P Persons, M Sullivan, D Forsman, P H Horgan III, D Thompson, J Chattea. 76: J Pate, D Barr, M Reid, C Montgomerie (GB), B Lietzke, D Schreyer, T Sills, J Mahaffey, J Woodward.

77: P Blackmar, E Aubrey, B Fabel, B Estes, M Hulbert, M Hatalsky, M Carnevale, E Seiser, M Tschetter. 78: C Cooper. 79: R Cochran. 80: L Ten Broeck, D Long. 81: G Knott. 82: C Tucker. 88: J Sumrow.

Longmuir and Harvey defeat the elements

Rome: The Scots, Garry Harvey and Bill Longmuir, who have made only three cuts all season between them, headed the chase for a £37,500 first prize in the Roma Masters at Castelgandolfo here yesterday. Harvey took the halfway lead after a windswept second round as a 71 took him to three under par, one ahead of Longmuir.

Mark James (73), José Maria Cañizares (71), of Spain, Jim Payne (73) and Paul Curry (71) are a stroke further adrift.

Fifteen players left for home early, their second rounds unfinished, unable to cope with the treacherously undulating greens and appalling weather.

Harvey has never finished higher than 23rd in a European tour event and had previously concentrated his efforts on the smaller Tartan Tour in Scotland. His only significant win was in the 1985 Kenyan Open. Harvey's first round was interrupted by bad light on Thursday night and he returned at the crack of dawn to complete the final six holes in level par yesterday.

A brief rest later and he was back on course, setting up his advantage with birdies in his opening two holes.

Longmuir lost his automatic tour card for the first time in 18 years last season. He made the halfway cut at Tenerife in March and in Florence last week but missed five others.

LEADING SECOND-ROUND SCORES (GB and Ire unless stated): 141: G Harvey, 70, 71. 142: W Longmuir, 70, 72. 143: J Payne, 70, 73. P Curry, 72, 71. M James, 70, 73. J-M Cañizares (Sp), 72, 71. 144: B Lane, 72, 72. M Roe, 68, 76; M Mackenzie, 71, 73. 145: D Williams, 71, 74. H Selby-Green, 73, 72. 146: G Ralph, 74, 72; P Parkin, 76, 70; J Sandelin (Swe), 78, 70; J Robson, 72, 74; E Romero (Arg), 71, 75. 147: S Tinning (Den), 74, 73. C Rautenson (US), 73, 74; A Johnstone (Zim) 77, 70; J Cheetham, 73, 74; S Luna (It), 71, 76; J McHenry, 72, 75; R Winchester, 72, 75. 148: G Krause, 73, 75; W Henry, 74, 74. D Smyth, 76, 72; J Ouros (Sp), 75, 73. J Berendt (Arg), 71, 77; J Robinson, 72, 76. A Forsbrand (Swe), 73, 75.

Nicklaus putts like a dream to take lead

Phoenix, Arizona: Jack Nicklaus led the Tradition after the first round at Desert Mountain here on Thursday and only he expressed any surprise (Patricia Davies writes).

"It wasn't a very good ball-striking round," he said. "I hit a lot of bad shots. I'm still trying to develop a rhythm and a pattern to my game and I worked on eight or nine different things during the round. I experiment every day I ever play, all day long. Every golf shot's an adventure, always has been, probably always will be."

The result of all this experimenting and adventuring? A 65, seven under par, to equal the Cochise course record set by Phil Rodgers last year.

Nicklaus hit a lot of good shots among the bad and he putted like a dream. He needed only 25 putts on greens that were soft after heavy rain and not too speedy. The defending champion dropped a shot at the 10th, his first hole, but still went out in 30, six under, and ended up with eight birdies and an eagle.

He also had a double bogey five at the short 7th (his sixteenth), where his ball bounced off a rock into the water. Nicklaus admitted to being a little cocky and not thinking the hole out properly, but since he designed the course that was no excuse.

In second place, on 66, were J C (Jesse Carlyle) Snead and Mike Hill, top senior last year with over $1,000,000 in winnings. Lee Trevino and Dave Stockton, last year's Ryder Cup captain, were in the quartet on 67.

LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES (US unless stated): 65: J Nicklaus. 66: J C Snead, M Hill. 67: G Gilbert, D Hill, D Stockton, L Trevino. 68: J Powell, L Ziegler, M Barber, T Aaron, J Albus, C Sifford, B Smith, M Joyce. 69: B Maxwell, D Weaver, A Geiberger, C Rodriguez. 70: T Shaw, K Zarley, K Still, G Player (SA), L Mowry. 71: J P Cain, W Casper, B Crampton (Aus), R Rhyan, T Dill, H Blancas, A Proctor.

O'Reilly tumbles again but stays in the reckoning

DAVID MILLER

Denver, Colorado: Wilf O'Reilly, of Britain, the defending short-track speed skating world champion, is learning Dutch in the pursuit of love. On the opening day of the world championships here, however, it was Monique Velzeboer, his girl-friend from the Netherlands, who stole the honours.

With two laps to go in his 1,500 metres semi-final, O'Reilly was leading comfortably from Michael McMillen, of New Zealand, who was also involved when he crashed and fell in the Olympic 1,000 metres semi-final in Albertville.

Coming off the bend, O'Reilly was clear and trouble-free when his right outer skate suddenly caught a chip in the ice, and down he went as though he had fallen over a log. McMillen, a stride behind and unable to avoid him, followed in a heap into the crash-padding.

Velzeboer, taking advantage of a gap that suddenly appeared among the leaders when Yan Li, of China, the defending women's champion, spun off the track, came second in the women's 1,500 metres final. First was Soo Hee Kim, of South Korea.

This exhilarating sport, its dramas exposed by the televising of the Olympic Games, is rapidly both improving and expanding, with the two Koreas, China and Australia, among others, challenging the world's traditional Western skating nations.

O'Reilly: another crash

All is not lost for O'Reilly. The world championships, unlike the one-off event Olympic competitions, is determined by an aggregate of results over four events.

O'Reilly also failed to make the 1,500 metres final when winning the title in Sydney last year, and now everything once again depends on his performance in the final of the 500 metres, 1,000 metres and 3,000 metres.

"Short-track is like the decathlon — 12 races over three days, excluding the relay, so consistency is what counts," O'Reilly said. "I was going *so* easy in the 1500," he said, frustratedly banging his fists on the spectator rail as Velzeboer took second place in her final.

She said: "Wilf is skating even better than he was in Albertville, so this was such back luck. The ice is really hard — not soft like it was in Sydney last year — and this increases the risks even if it is good for the fastest skaters."

The South Koreans, Ji Soo Mo and the Olympic champion, Ki Hoon Kim, dominated the men's final, and Tatsuyoshi Ishihara, of Japan, edged between them on the final lap to take second place, with Fred Blackburn, of Canada, who had made the early running, finishing fourth.

Ji Soo Mo twice broke the world 1,500 metres record but the electronic timers had failed. He was hand-timed at 2min 21.38sec and then 2:18.70 but officials ruled that the 2:22.77 of the New Zealander, Andrew Nicholson, which was set on March 7 in Nobeyama, Japan, still stood.

"Because both runs were hand-timed they cannot stand as official world records," Bill Markland, a member of the technical committee of the international speed skating union, said.

MOTOR RACING

Mansell humbles the opposition in first practice

FROM NORMAN HOWELL IN SÃO PAULO

NIGEL Mansell again humiliated all the opposition in the first timed practice session for tomorrow's Brazilian grand prix, while another British driver, Perry McCarthy, could only stand and stare, somewhat bewildered by the last-minute decision which made him a spectator.

Mansell finished nearly two seconds ahead of his Williams-Renault colleague, Riccardo Patrese, and has a lead of more than 3sec over Michael Schumacher, the next nearest challenger, in the Benetton-Ford. The much-awaited new McLarens could not match the leaders and Ayrton Senna was only ninth, 3.6sec behind Mansell.

But while the cars were roaring round the Interlagos circuit, a very glum and downcast McCarthy was trying to explain, to himself as much as to the gathered journalists, why he was not allowed to try and pre-qualify in the Andrea Moda Formula car which the team had paid so much, about $300,000, to get race ready in double quick time.

McCarthy, who last raced a F3000 car in 1989 when he finished seventh in the rain at Spa, was led to believe that he was eligible for a super licence, without which it is not possible to race in Formula One. He even put money down as a deposit.

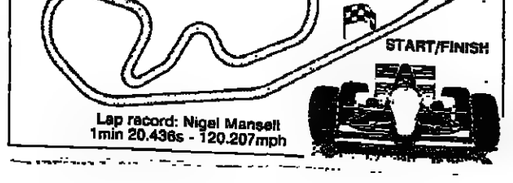
The upshot is that after years of trying to get in to the big time, working on the North Sea oil rigs, and having paid for his flight and accomodation in order to fulfil his dream, McCarthy did not get into the black Andrea Moda car at yesterday morning to attempt to qualify.

The season has not gone well for the Moda team. The drivers were prevented from starting in the South African Grand Prix because they had not paid their $100,000 bond to Fisa, the world governing body, and their cars were not ready to race in Mexico.

Giovanna Amati, just as hopeful as McCarthy, but at least able to race, was so far off the pace, nearly 15sec, that one has to wonder at the wisdom of allowing her to have a super licence and indeed race at this level.

This is a fast sweeping circuit and one of the best places to watch the cars go through their paces is at the first bend after the pit straight, where they sweep down off the banked left-hander, down a short hill and into a sharp right-hander leading into a wide sweeping uphill left-hander. It a complex passage and most driver choose to engage second after the bank, hold second all the way through the S, then power out, and change into the wide left bend.

Most but not all. The best engaged second, but changed up just before the start of the S. It takes courage, self confidence and confidence in the car. Niki Lauda, three times a world champion, expressed admiration for Mansell, who looks as if he is going to win his third successive race. They still call him The Lion round these parts. But the way he is pulverising all opposition would suggest that Terminator is a better description.



FOOTBALL

Souness in happy mood over FA Cup squad

BY CLIVE WHITE

FA CUP

LIVERPOOL are standing on the brink of salvaging something tomorrow from their season of despair, knowing that this time there can be no excuses. With the exception of Dean Saunders, who is suspended, a full complement of players will be available to Graeme Souness, the manager, when he selects his team to face Portsmouth in the FA Cup semi-final at Highbury.

"I will have to be a real manager at last, someone able to make decisions instead of someone who has had his decisions made for him by injury problems," Souness said yesterday.

So as not to spoil the feeling of health and solidarity, Souness even took Saunders with the squad when it travelled south yesterday. Suddenly he is spoilt for choice right through the team. The first division is about to discover what it has been missing all season, though if Liverpool come together it will be poor Portsmouth, of the second division, who will feel the force.

Jim Smith, the Portsmouth manager, is under no illusions about the task facing his side, particularly the younger members of it. "When you look at Barnes, Houghton, Wright and Nicol waiting to come in to a side who have just won 4-0 this week, it would be a silly man who is not frightened," he said. "I'll just have to tell my lot to go to church on Sunday morning and pray that they're still injured."

Portsmouth, however, are not without hope. Any team who could dismiss Nottingham Forest as competently as they did in the semi-final must be respected. But their hopes of acquitting themselves creditably, never mind winning the tie, could depend upon the fitness of Andy Awford, their excellent young central defender, who injured a thigh muscle playing against Charlton Athletic on Tuesday.

Smith will leave it until late this afternoon before deciding whether or not he should play. Gavin Maguire, who earlier in the season vowed after a contract dispute that he would never play for the club again, will deputise if Awford is unfit. Maguire versus Ian Rush, his Welsh international teammate smacks of a mismatch.

Rush needs just four goals to bring him level with Denis Law's all-time FA Cup goalscoring record of 41. The more immediate objective is the single goal which would put him into second place on his own ahead of Allan Clarke.

Incredibly, Rush, one of the most prolific scorers of modern times, has scored only two League goals this season — reflecting Liverpool's and his own injury-plagued season.

The other semi-final, at Hillsborough between Norwich City and Sunderland, rather pales by comparison, though if Portsmouth should win the the prospect of an all-second division final will loom large.

This tie brings together managers whose jobs, either have been or still are under threat, hard though it is to believe.

It required desperate measures on the part of David Stringer, the Norwich manager, to pull his team around this season when they slumped to 16th position. This he did by deploying a sweeper and forsaking their short-ball game.

Even victory tomorrow might not be enough to save the neck of Malcolm Crosby, the Sunderland first team coach who has stood in for Dennis Smith since the latter's dismissal. Bob Murray, the Sunderland chairman, has made it clear that survival in the second division is of paramount importance.

Left back who is seldom left out

BY CLIVE WHITE

THE second division team, announced at this week's PFA dinner, included only one Portsmouth player, yet it confirmed Jim Smith's views. "I always said players were bad judges," the Portsmouth manager remarked. "Some of the players who got into that side, well . . ."

What was of particular surprise to most people was that the Pompey player who was chosen did not turn out to be either Darren Anderton or Andy Awford, their two most celebrated young players, but John Beresford, their little-sung hero at left back. Whatever Smith thought of the players' selection in general, he had no complaints about the choice of Beresford. "He's had an outstanding season," he said.

It has been mistakenly taken for granted that the gaggle of first division scouts who have doggedly followed Portsmouth at home and away this year have only had eyes for Anderton and Awford. Reports back to base, however, cannot have failed to give favourable mention of the small, darting fair figure who has played such a significant role in Portsmouth's revival.

Smith has an inkling that after tomorrow's televised FA Cup semi-final against Liverpool at Highbury, Beresford will be in the thoughts of a lot more managers. He said: "He's very exciting going forward and while he still needs to work on the defensive part of his game, we tend to try to encourage him to be positive so that the opposition ends up chasing him.

"He's very quick, but he's also a good tackler, brave and can get up well for a small lad. He's got a hell of a lot going for him. I'm a bit surprised he hasn't got into one of the England B squads yet. He's definitely worth a look."

Smith's appraisal of the young player, who, like himself, is from Sheffield, would probably have contrasted quite sharply with that of Billy McNeill six years ago. Beresford began his career at Maine Road and had played for England youth when McNeill, the then Manchester City manager, told him he would not make the grade.

"I was playing with the best players in my age group and then all of a sudden I was told I was not good enough," he said. "It was terrific blow to my confidence."

Fortunately for Beresford the view of McNeill was not shared by another member of the Maine Road staff — Neil McNab. "He pulled me aside and said, 'don't ever doubt your ability because I believe in you'. It gave me the boost to carry on and I owe Neil a lot for that. Even so, the move to Barnsley, I would say, set me back three years. I had to sort myself out and think which direction I was going in."

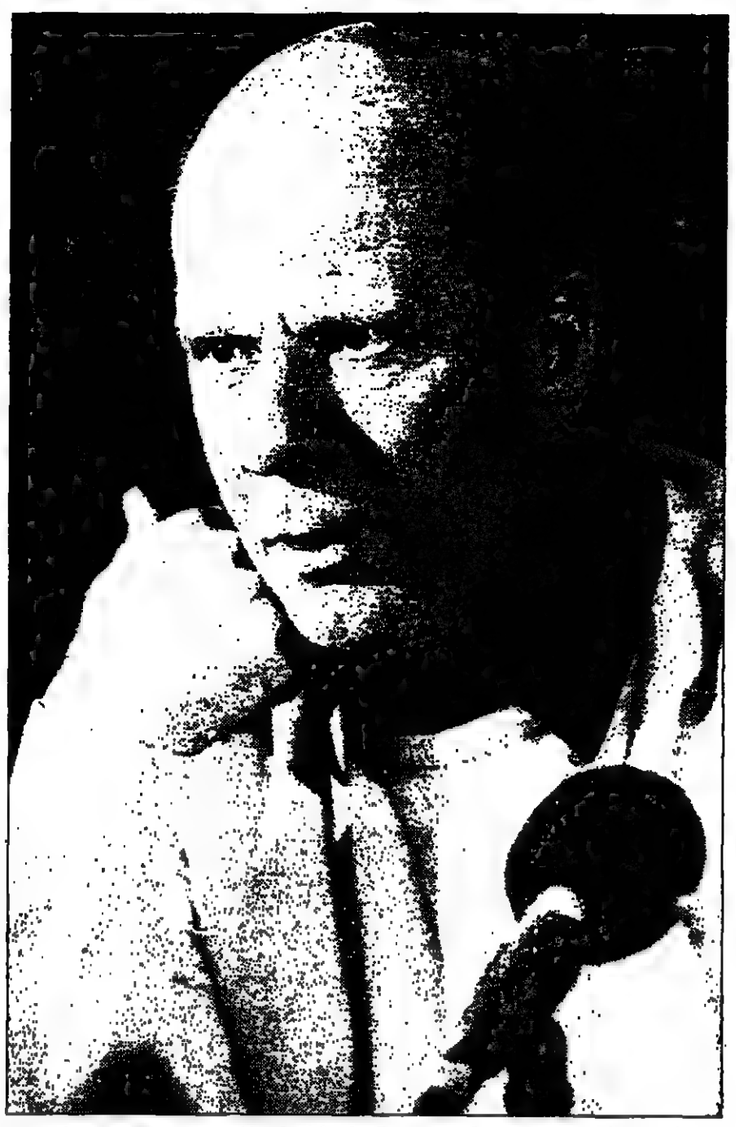
Beresford eventually established himself as a firm favourite among many at Oakwell where Allan Clarke assembled a formidable team only to be forced to dismember it before its potential could be realised. David Hirst, Steve Agnew, Carl Tiler were just a few of the players sold before Clarke, too, found himself out of the door.

When it came to Beresford's turn, supporters staged a demonstration in front of the directors' box waving £5 notes at them in protest against the sales. But by then Beresford was already on his way to Fratton Park following a £300,000 bid from John Gregory, who was then the Portsmouth manager. "I'm surprised Allan Clarke is still not back in management," Beresford said. "The job he did at Barnsley was phenomenal."

Should Portsmouth fail to board the Premier League gravy train this season, they, too, could find themselves forced to part company with one of their prize assets. Neither Anderton, who is 20, nor Awford, 19, are keen to leave the club at such a fragile stage of their careers and Beresford, who at 24 is comparatively an old hand, might be a more realistic target. His contract expires this summer.

"Both Anderton and Awford have the potential to go a long way," Beresford said. "Darren could do with another couple of years here to improve his confidence. If he were to move at this time with the kind of price tag they are talking about on his head it would be hard for him to live with."

Confidence is not a quality which the perky, personable Beresford lacks. He failed to convert a penalty for the first time in six attempts this season on Tuesday but would be more than happy to accept the responsiblity at Highbury should the need arise.



Talking a great game: Jim Smith, the Portsmouth manager, enthuses about the promise demonstrated by Beresford, the club's left back

RUGBY LEAGUE

Only sad Rovers stand in way of rampant Wigan

BY KEITH MACKLIN

IT HAS been obvious for several weeks that Wigan would win a third consecutive Stones Bitter championship. It could well happen this weekend, with St Helens are at Warrington today and Wigan at Featherstone Rovers tomorrow.

If Warrington beat St Helens in what is usually a fiercely contested match at Wilderspool, and Wigan repel the challenge of relegation-threatened Featherstone Rovers, the title will be on its way to Central Park.

St Helens could still catch Wigan on points, but the scoring difference between the sides is so vastly in favour of Wigan that St Helens would need an avalanche of points against them at Knowsley Road on Good Friday to tip the balance.

Rovers are displeased with a police decision to make the match all-ticket. Their ground capacity is 6,125 and yesterday they still had over 2,300 tickets left.

Terry Mullaney, a club official, said: "We are going to be losing money hand over fist. We have never had a capacity crowd for an all-ticket game."

A win for Featherstone would give them a lifeline in the first division, with Bradford Northern and Salford left to battle it out to avoid the drop. Bradford have a game in hand, and are at home to Wakefield Trinity tomorrow, while Salford have to travel to Widnes.

Under normal circumstances the Widnes game would seem beyond Salford's capabilities, but Widnes are in such dire straights with injuries and low morale that Salford must fancy their chances of pulling off a rare victory. The return of full back Steve Gibson after injury will help Salford's cause.

Other promotion issues could be decided tomorrow, with Leigh and Sheffield Eagles likely to get the victories they need over Rochdale Hornets and Carlisle. In the third division Huddersfield can make sure by beating Barrow at home.

☐ Oldham directors may recommend the sale of the Watersheddings ground to pay off a £600,000 debt. A ground-sharing scheme with football neighbours Oldham Athletic is a possibility.

ATHLETICS

Wimbledon ready for its last relay

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Southern 12-stage road relay, criticised for being potentially lethal because of traffic on the course, will be run at Wimbledon probably for the last time today. Increased policing has been promised to reduce the risk to runners, but only for this year, and a new venue is being sought for next spring.

Seb Coe and Steve Ovett, among other luminaries, have taken part in this popular club event inaugurated a quarter of a century ago. But last year, Mark Rowland, the Olympic steeplechaser, said of the event, held on roads around Wimbledon Common: "You take your life in your hands when you run there." Eamonn Martin, the British 10,000 metres record holder, said: "There is most definitely a chance of a serious injury." And Mike Gratton, a former London Marathon champion, said: "Runners are putting their lives at risk."

Colin Gostelow, chairman of the south of England road running management committee, said yesterday: "The police have said that, for one year only, they will provide additional manpower and ensure that the race is safe. On the basis that we do not have police commitment for future years we are looking for an alternative venue."

Martin, lining up again today, said yesterday: "It has been dangerous for the last few years. You are running head on towards traffic."

The feeling of Alan Storey, the ADT London Marathon race director, is that races which require police to safeguard runners should not expect free help.

YACHTING

Law makes late entry into Olympic stakes

CHRIS Law has found the money he needs to mount a last-minute campaign to represent Britain at the Olympic Games in the Soling keelboat class (Barry Pickthall writes). He took delivery of a new Canadian-built boat and spent the week preparing for the French pre-Olympic regatta at Hyeres which starts on Monday.

Law and his crew of Jerry Richards and Chris Mason will be competing against Lawrie Smith, the uncrowned world champion, who was robbed of the title last week by a series of controversial decisions taken by the international jury at Cadiz. This week, the British Olympic selectors removed the ten points in their calculations that the jury added to Smith's score after receiving a letter from Stavely Roberts, the Scottish jury member at Cadiz.

He said he had considerable sympathy for Smith's case and pointed out that the decision had not been unanimous. As a result, Smith's lead in the trials over his closest rival, Glyn Charles, has risen to 30 points. The British selectors also put aside the disqualification of Anne Lucas during the Europe-class championship at Cadiz where she was alleged to have called a marshal "stupid".

America's Cup, page 30

Match that cries out for a goal

TWO years of scoreless draws suggest that, if only by the law of averages, there must be a goal this time around when Oxford and Cambridge contest the 108th University match at Craven Cottage this morning.

Oxford field an experienced side and have put behind them a recent goal drought with the return to form of Matt Mellor.

Cambridge field a number of multi-talented sportsmen with Adrian Davies, victorious captain of the rugby team from last December, in midfield and Richard Pearson, the England under-19 cricketer, at the heart of their defence.

MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S MATCHES

First division

Chelsea v West Ham

Clive Allen makes a quick return to Stamford Bridge following his sale to West Ham but it may not be early enough to save the visitors, now 11 points adrift of survival. Elliott is back after injury to counter the Allen threat but Townsend is still suspended. Dixon hopes for a recall. West Ham's position is not helped by the absence of Breacker, who is suspended, and doubts about Small and Slater.

Coventry v Arsenal

The three bottom clubs must see the decline of Coventry as their sole hope of survival. With Sealey, on loan from Aston Villa making his debut in goal, they should again be difficult to break down, though it will not be for want of trying on the part of Arsenal, still chasing a Uefa Cup place. Davis and Linighan, both on the transfer list, are added to the Arsenal squad as O'Leary and Parlour are suspended and Groves injured.

Crystal Palace v Everton

A match of mid-table meaninglessness if ever there was one. With McGoldrick still injured, Palace may reshuffle midfield and bring back Mortimer from the side that beat Nottingham Forest 3-0, which means that Dobbs, a young winger, keeps his place ahead of Clarke.

Luton v Wimbledon

Luton must hope that their own two-week rest has rejuvenated them while Wimbledon are still weary from having to perform for the second time in 43 hours. Varadi, on loan from Leeds, makes his debut for Luton, his eighth League club. Chamberlain may be recalled in place of Day, who has a cracked finger. Wimbledon are unchanged

Whyte: ban over

Manchester City v Leeds

If only for the sake of their own pride, City need to get their season back on course after four games without a win or even a goal. Quinn and Curle face fitness tests. Leeds, for whom Whyte returns after suspension, must earn a draw if they are to overtake United at the head of the table. Defeat does not bear thinking about for Leeds, who cannot afford to lose further ground after last week's home draw against West Ham.

Nottm Forest v Sheff Wed

Even Wednesday's improved away form deserted them last week at Oldham, so they cannot be confident about a visit to Forest, still smarting from their defeat to Wimbledon on Thursday. Sheridan's return and that of Worthington after lengthy injuries should lift Wednesday who include five former Forest players in their squad; Francis, Woods, Anderson, Wilson and Sheridan. It could have been six but Jemson is out of favour.

Sheffield U v Oldham

With the threat of relegation all but seen off, both teams can afford to start enjoying their football again. United, beaten once in six games, recall Tracey after missing two games with a shoulder injury. Oldham give late tests to Ritchie and Milligan. Holden and Sharp are struggling to overcome flu. Moulden, who has not played this season after a foot operation, and McDonald are in reserve.

Southampton v QPR

By switching their best performances from the cups to the League in recent weeks Southampton have virtually ensured their first division survival and may be happy with a point against the division's most in-form team. Rangers, who have been beaten only once in 19 League games, recall Maddix for the first time in more than four months as replacement for Peacock, who is suspended. Shearer returns after suspension but Le Tissier and Horne are unavailable

Tottenham v Aston Villa

A third consecutive win at home, unheard of at White Hart Lane this season, would not go amiss if Tottenham are to breathe more easily in the remaining weeks of 1991-2. It will not be easy without Stewart, van den Hauwe and Thorstvedt. Howells, Bergsson and Walker are the deputies. Yorke is back in contention for Villa.

FA Cup semi-finals

Liverpool v Portsmouth

It is not a bad time for Liverpool to report a clean bill of health at long last. The team is likely to show several changes from that which beat Notts County in midweek. The chief selection posers for Liverpool's manager, Graeme Souness, are Whelan or Molby in midfield and whether or not to play Barnes in a central striking role. Portsmouth are still sweating on the fitness of Awford, their central defender.

Norwich v Sunderland

Norwich suffered another body blow when Crook was ruled out with a calf strain, joining Phillips and Beckford on the sidelines. Fleck is still receiving treatment for rib injuries but Powell stands by. Ullathorne is included in the squad after missing 13 games. Sunderland's only doubt is Bennett.

☐ Compiled by Clive White

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Marine's omen may be a final beckoner

BY WALTER GAMMIE

MARINE, of the HFS Loans League, break the GM Vauxhall Conference monopoly of the Vauxhall FA Trophy semi-final places when they travel to Witton Albion for today's first-leg match.

"We're very confident," Roly Howard, who last month celebrated 20 years as the Marine manager, said. "We know Witton well because they have only been out of our League for one season, and we've already got Kettering and Redbridge Forest among our scalps. Witton are on a bit of a run at the moment and I see their manager [Peter O'Brien] has just won the manager-of-the-month award. I regard that as a good thing because it always seems a bit of a jinx."

Marine's success is on a broad front. Brian Ross — "the best signing I have ever made", Howard says — scored the two goals that enabled Marine to overturn a 1-0 first-leg deficit against **Guiseley** and clinch a place in the HFS Loans League Cup final against **Frickley Athletic**. Marine have already qualified to meet **Tranmere Rovers** in the Liverpool Senior Cup final.

The day after playing Frickley at Maine Road, Marine have to travel to **Gainsborough Trinity** as part of the league backlog that has affected their chances of overhauling **Stalybridge Celtic**.

Colchester United meet **Macclesfield Town** in the other Trophy semi-final, while **Wycombe Wanderers** make up one of their two matches in hand on the Conference leaders with a trip to **Farnborough Town**.

If **Enfield** fail to beat **Wokingham Town** at home today, victory at **Windsor and Eton** would give **Woking** the Diadora League title.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

Late results on Thursday
BARCLAYS LEAGUE: First division: Wimbledon 3, Nottingham Forest 0.
IRISH LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final: Larne 1, Cliftonville 0.
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bashley 0, Bromsgrove 1.
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Rotherham 2, Barnsley 1; Everton 1, Manchester City 3. Second division: Wolverhampton 0, Leicester 0.
ENGLISH SCHOOLS' ADIDAS TROPHY: Regional final: Hampshire 1, Avon 2.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New York Knicks 117, Charlotte Hornets 98; Cleveland Cavaliers 115, Los Angeles Clippers 98; Houston Rockets 137, Denver Nuggets 114; Phoenix Suns 109, Golden State Warriors 105; Portland Trail Blazers 118, Utah Jazz 86; Seattle SuperSonics 111, Sacramento Kings 103.

BOXING

SYDNEY: Light-welterweight: Konstantin Tszyu (CIS) ko Ned Simmons (Can), 1st rnd

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH (three days): Brackenfell, South Africa: Boland 277 (N Syman 103, M Erasmus 51 not out). Warwickshire 73-1.

SNOOKER

GOFFS, Co Kildare: Irish Masters: Quarter-finals: S Hendry (Scot), bt S James (Eng), 5-3

RUGBY UNION

SOMERSET CUP FINAL: Weston-super-Mare 7, Bridgwater and Albion 18.

GOLF

BANGKOK: Thai Open: Leading second-round scores: 138: R Farley (Aus), 67, 71; S Gimson (Sing), 73, 65. N Navin (Thai), 69, 69, Saneh Saengsui (Thai), 70, 68. 139: R Bouchard (Can), 73, 66; B Ruangkit (Thai), 70, 69; V Supwarangoon (Thai), 69, 70. 140: B Sissons (Can), 70, 70; C Espinosa (Mex), 70, 70; LJ Wen Sheng (Taiwan), 73, 67, S Meesawat (Thai), 72, 68. 141: R Backwell (Aus), 69, 72; B King (Aus), 72, 69; J Resmussen (Den), 69, 72; K H Han (Myanmar), 72, 69 M Aebli (US), 72, 69; G Bruckner (US), 69, 72; T Hamilton (US), 70, 71; T Harding (US), 69, 72; S Taylor (US), 71 70. 8 Maneerat (Thai), 75, 66. 142: M Roberts (Aus), 71, 71, K Yong, Il (S Kor), 71, 71, D Speon (NZ), 68, 74; P Moss (US), 74, 68
MIKI, Japan: Descente Cup: Leading second-round scores: 136: Y Kaneko (Japan), 66, 70 138: Y Yamamoto (Japan), 72, 66. 139: M Kimura (Japan), 73, 66; Y Hagawa (Japan), 68, 71. 140: Chen Tze-chung (Tai), 71, 69; R Rafferty (GB), 70, 70. Other British score: 147: P Hoad, 71, 76.

ICE HOCKEY

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool B: Austria 18, Bulgaria 0 (in Klagenfurt); Japan 4, Denmark 2 (in Villach).

HOCKEY

ABERDEEN: Youth championships: Under-16: England 8, Wales 1; Ireland 2, Scotland 0 Under-18, England 3, Wales 0; Ireland 3, Scotland 2

SPEED SKATING

DENVER, Colorado: Short track world championships: Finals: Men: 1,500 metres: 1, Kim Ki Hoon (S Kor), 2min 27.04sec; 2, Ji Soo Mo (S Kor), 2:27 15: 3, N Ishihara (Japan), 2:27.57 Women: 1,500m 1, Kim So Hee (S Kor), 2:44 04: 2, M Velzeboer (Neth), 2:44 18; 3, A Peterson (US), 2:44.39

MODERN PENTATHLON

PARIS: World Cup: Fencing: 1, O Clergeau (Fr A), 1,066 pts (39 wins, 15 defeats): 2, L Fabian (Hun) 1,000 (36-15), 3, J Boutou (Fr A), 978 (35-18), P Steimann (Switz), 978 (35-16), 5, F Clerco (Fr B), 934 (33-18), V Soonu (Estonia), 934 (33-18). Others: 17, E Karlsson (Fin), 824 (28-23); 25, I Marjunen (Fin), 792 (27-24); 38, P Nikkari (Fin), 758 (25-26), 40, P Mitchell (GB), 648 (20-31), 43 R Simson (GB), 604 (18-33), 51, M D Ferreira (GB), 516 (14-37). Swimming: 1, F Frontier (Fr C) 1,358 (3min 9 71sec), 2, Clercq, 1,320 (3 14.07): 3, C Ruer (Fr A), 1,320 (3.14.14); 4, A Toeder (Rom), 1,292 (3 17 77) 5, P Steimann (Switz), 1,260 (3:21 71) Others: 21, Ferreira, 1,195 (3 28.68); 23, I Marjunen (Fin), 1,192 (3 30 48), 44, Pasi Nikkari (Fin), 1,068 (3:43.11) 47, R Simson (GB), 1,060 (3 46.51), 48, E Karlsson (Fin), 1,052 (3:47 86), 50, P Mitchell (GB), 1,032 (3.50.17) Shooting: 1 V Pzokov. (Bul), 1,180; 2, A Miszer (Hun) 1 165: 3, A Stefanek (Pol), 1,150: 4, C Guillay (Fr B), 1,150 5, U Zimmer (Ger), 1,150. Others: 13, R Simson (GB), 1,105 (189), 32, I Marjunen (Fin), 1,015 (183), 32, Karlsson, 1 015 (183); 35, P Mitchell (GB), 1,000 (182) 45, Ferreira (GB), 910 (176), 52, P Nikkari (Fin), 715 (163). Overall: 1, G Yumerov (CIS), 3,278. 2, P Steimann (Switz), 3,268; 3, N Starostin (CIS), 3,256, 4, O Clergeau (Fr A) 3,235, 5, L Fabian (Hung) 3 220 and C Ruer (Fr A), 3,220 Others: 24, I Marjunen (Fin), 2,999 35, Karlsson, 2,891, 45, Simeon, 2,769, 47, Mitchell (GB) 2,680; 48, Ferreira 2,622; 82, Nikkari, 2,561

SWIMMING

CANBERRA: Australian national championships: Men: 400m freestyle: K Perkins, 3min 46 47sec (world record)

TENNIS

JOHANNESBURG: South African Open: Second round: K Ullyet (SA) bt M Laurendeau (Can), 6-2, 7-6; C Pridham (Can) bt D Marco (Sp), 4-6, 7-5, 7-6, G Muller (SA) bt J Frana (Arg), 6-4, 6-4; A Krickstein (US) bt L Lavalle (Mex), 6-2, 6-4.
LISBON: Men's tournament: First round: R Furlan (It) bt T Muster (Austria), 6-7, 7-5, 6-2; U Riglewski (Ger) bt C Miniussi (Arg), 7-6, 7-5 Second round: J Cunha de Silva (Por) bt H Skoff (Austria), 7-6, 4-1, ret, S Bruguera (Sp) bt R Gilbert (Fr), 6-3, 6-2, C Costa (Sp) bt A Gómez (Ec), 6-2, 6-4, I Lendl (Cz) bt J Molina (Sp), 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, H de la Pena (Arg) bt K Novacek (Cz), 7-6, 6-2. J Arrese (Sp) bt Riglewski, 7-5, 6-2
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina: Family Circle Cup: Third round: N Zvereva (CIS) bt M Navratilova (US), 6-4, 6-2; A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt I Gorrochategui (Arg), 6-2, 6-1; C Martinez (Sp) bt S Cecchini (It), 6-1, 6-2; P Hy (Can) bt J Novotna (Cz), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; L Meskhi (CIS) bt D Graham (US), 3-6, 6-2, 7-5; B Schultz (Neth) bt V Martinek (Ger), 6-2, 6-2, C Kuhlman (US) bt P Ritter (Austria), 6-2, 7-5.

Zvereva: third-round win over Navratilova

SPORT IN BRIEF

Misses put out Davis

Steve Davis forfeited the deciding frame of his quarter-final match with Ken Doherty in the Irish Masters snooker competition yesterday after missing his intended object ball three times in succession.

With the score at 37-36 and three reds close to the top cushion, Davis, the world No. 2, failed to connect and it was a forfeiture under the rules. Doherty won 5-4.

Fast freestyle

Swimming: Kieren Perkins, of Australia, set a world record of 3min 46.47sec for the men's 400 meters freestyle at the national championships in Canberra, erasing the old mark of 3:46.95 set by the East German, Uwe Dassler, at the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games. Susan O'Neill broke the Commonwealth 200 metres butterfly record with 2:10.14.

Borg beaten

Tennis: Bjorn Borg's latest comeback ended with a 3-6, 7-6, 6-7 second round defeat by Nicolas Pereira, of Venezuela, in Houston, Texas.

Off the bill

Gymnastics: Training injuries have removed Sergei Kharkov and Yelena Grudneva from the Daily Mirror Champions All international at Birmingham tomorrow. They are replaced by Aleksandr Kolyvanov and Tatyana Ignatova, also from the Commonwealth of Independent States.

THE TIMES
SPORT

SATURDAY APRIL 4 1992

Scudamore keeps his career in perspective


Scudamore: ambitious

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

If racing's law of glorious uncertainty has its way this afternoon, Peter Scudamore will fulfil a lifetime ambition and win the Martell Grand National on Docklands Express.

Less than 48 hours ago, a season that had initially brimmed with promise looked to be heading nowhere for the champion jockey. After the defeat of Carvill's Hill, the Cheltenham Gold Cup "certainty", Scudamore was down to ride Bonanza Boy today. He was not optimistic.

The leading rider, not far from his 34th birthday, looked set to miss out yet again from winning either of National Hunt's big prizes.

Fate and Liverpool's tough fences then intervened and, with Anthony Tory sidelined by injury, Scudamore finds himself with an outstanding chance of Aintree glory aboard Kim Bailey's strongly fancied favourite.

Not that glory will be on the mind of the professional's professional in the weighing-room. As he envelops himself in a cocoon of pained concentration and offers up a prayer, as usual, before the big race, he knows that fantasies about what could happen must not be allowed to interfere.

In any case, the prospect of fame and stardom is not the driving force for this serious man. He talks more of honesty, politeness and respect. "Yes, I would love to win the National but if you said to me winning the National, riding 200 winners this season or 1,500 winners during my career would change my life, it won't. It doesn't. Everything goes on the same.

"Yesterday was a great day with Cyphrate winning. With the National as well, it might last a week. But it is all soon forgotten. I used to get uptight about it all but John Francome used to say 'Don't worry, they are shooting people in Beirut'. Racing is a great frivolity.

"There might be five million people in the country who have a bet in the National and know who Docklands Express is. The other fifty million haven't a clue.

"The more important thing is whether that little girl, or whoever, in the hospital recovers. That is not frivolity. We are very privileged in what we are doing and you have to put it into context."

He looked at Thomas, his nine-year-old son, and added: "This is why I am riding, at the end of the day, because the boys have to go to school and I have to earn a living."

Do not mistake his down-to-earth, philosophical attitude for lack of ambition. The determination to scale jumping's peaks burns as strong as ever.

"As a jockey, I always strive to be the best. I want to be better than John Francome, Richard Dunwoody, Adrian Maguire or Jonjo. People fit you into a mould. Recently, I read an article saying I had been champion jockey six times but Adrian Maguire was the one coming up and he probably would not have to work as hard as me . . .

"I have been tagged with the workhorse, hard-working jockey label. Obviously, I would prefer them to say I was a supreme genius who was a little bit moody," he added with a chuckle.

"If I can leave my sons the legacy my father left me, of honesty and goodwill, I will be happy. I believe his legacy as a tough, honest steeplechase jockey has been my greatest asset. We're not flash, we're not superstars, but we enjoy what we are doing."

Scudamore intends, all being well, to continue enjoying race riding for another four or five years. "I want to win the Gold Cup and the National but I won't continue riding to do that. I ride basically because I enjoy it. It is a good way of making a living and Martin Pipe and his wife, Carol, have given me such tremendous help and support.

"I enjoy working with Martin so much. I feel he is getting better and better and I don't want to miss out when he peaks. It's only in the last five or six years we have had these really wonderful horses. Every year there is something coming through."

Despite the controversy of the Cheltenham Gold Cup, he was not that disappointed by the flop of Carvill's Hill. "I had done my best. The whole team had. But he was not good enough, whether or not Golden Freeze ran."

He believed the Golden Freeze incident was "distasteful" for racing and had no regrets about disclosing the alleged remarks made to him during the race by Michael Bowlby, Golden Freeze's jockey.

But Carvill's Hill is history. This afternoon offers new hope. Docklands Express may hold the nation's attention for only a day. For his respected jockey, it could prove the memory of a lifetime.

A to Z of runners, page 32
Race preview, page 33
Card and form guide, page 33

Dockland Express new Aintree favourite

Maguire has to give up ride on Cool Ground

By Richard Evans

MARTIN Lynch, one of National Hunt's unsung heroes, was thrust into the Martell Grand National spotlight yesterday following an unexpected call-up to ride Cool Ground, the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner.

The eleventh-hour change of jockey came after Adrian Maguire, the riding find of the season, was concussed and injured a shoulder in the opening race at Aintree when Sibton Abbey fell.

Lynch, aged 33 and born only a few miles from Maguire in Co Meath, has only ridden once before in the world's greatest steeplechase — and is not keen on recalling the experience. He was unseated from Barney Maclyvie at the first fence in 1981 when Aldaniti won.

The softly spoken Irishman will sit on Cool Ground, the long time ante-post favourite, for the first time this morning. Toby Balding's chaser is seeking to become the first horse since Golden Miller in 1934 to complete the Cheltenham Gold Cup-Grand National double in the same year. Despite the pressure of riding a leading fancy, Lynch is taking it all in his stride.

"I am delighted. It's just another race," he said. The dream ride is just reward as injury forced him to miss riding Auntie Dot last year when the mare finished third.

The switch in riders combined with the drying conditions at Aintree prompted a dramatic shake-up in the eve of race betting.

The "Big Three" bookmakers all promoted Docklands Express to favouritism after confirmation that Peter Scudamore will replace the injured Anthony Tory. Corals offer 8-1 Docklands Express, 10-1 Brown Windsor, Cool Ground and Twin Oaks, 12-1 Auntie Dot, 16-1 Laura's Beau, Party Politics, 18-1 Romany King, 20-1 bar.


Lynch: a late deputy

An estimated £55 million will be bet by around 15 million punters in a race where Party Politics will be a topical tip.

Ladbrokes are offering 50-1 against the Nick Gaselee-trained chaser winning the race and Labour gaining an overall victory in the general election, and 105-1 against a double with the Conservatives retaining a parliamentary majority.

With a dry weather forecast for the Liverpool area, for the Liverpool area, the going should be perfect for the four-and-a-half mile marathon with a prize of £100,000 for the winner. The best backed of the 40 runners yesterday were Auntie Dot, Romany King, Stay On Tracks and Whats The Crack.

Brendan Sheridan will be replaced by Charlie Swan on Roc De Prince following a nasty fall yesterday.

The addition of Maguire to the growing Aintree casualty list prompted trainers and jockeys to launch strong criticism of the fences on the Mildmay course, half of which have been rebuilt since last year. Ferdie Murphy, trainer of Sibton Abbey, has pulled out an intended runner this afternoon. "The fences are like cement walls. They are not acceptable," he said.

David Nicholson commented: "The fences are not correctly built and I have been coming here since 1951."

John Parrett, the clerk of the course, responded: "Last year everybody felt they were a bit soft. We felt it would be better to make them a little bit stiffer. That was the common consensus among trainers."


In search of a splash: the Oxford crew is put through its paces on the Thames before today's 138th University Boat Race, in which it will be pursuing Oxford's sixteenth victory in 17 years. Preview, page 34; diary, page 16; Saturday Review, pages 18-19

Wales to reject S Africa

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE Welsh Rugby Union (WRU), which has yet to learn whether its national side must play in qualifying rounds for the next World Cup, in 1995, said yesterday it would press for New Zealand to host the tournament. It will oppose awarding it to South Africa on the grounds of "continued political uncertainty".

Wales's representatives at the International Rugby Football Board's annual meeting in Wellington later this month have been mandated by the WRU general committee to vote for New Zealand ahead of South Africa, Argentina and Canada.

"There can be little doubt that South Africa has everything it takes to stage a successful tournament, but perhaps it needs a little more time to allow things to settle before taking on something of this magnitude," Denis Evans, the WRU secretary, said. "The WRU feels that it would be an unnecessary risk to place the tournament, at this stage of its development, in a potentially volatile political environment."

Evans acknowledged the commercial potential of South Africa, where two leading players, Neil Jenkins, the Pontypridd and Wales stand-off half, and Lyndon Mustoe, the Pontypool prop, will play this summer.

But members of his committee may well have been haunted by memories of 1989, when relationships with South Africa were at an all-time low at the time of the South African Rugby Board's centenary celebrations.

As anticipated, Wales confirmed Robert Norster and Alan Davies as national team manager and coach up to the 1995 World Cup. The appointment will force Davies to move from Nottingham, his home for more than 20 years and where he has coached the local club for 14 years, to Wales.

"My commitment now will be far greater, and I have to look at a total change of lifestyle," he said. "I will be looking at finding employment in Wales and moving there."

Weekend preview, page 30

One-year deal for Tendulkar

YORKSHIRE cricket club expect to sign Sachin Tendulkar, the outstanding young Indian batsman, as their first overseas player this weekend (Peter Ball writes). Chris Hassell, the county's chief executive, has flown to Bombay to meet the player.

The move was already afoot when the county's cricket committee, newly reinforced by Geoffrey Boycott, met to rubber stamp it yesterday. Hassell has a one-year contract with him, and unless there is a last-minute hitch, Tendulkar is expected to sign.

"We've already spoken to Tendulkar and his mentor, Sunil Gavaskar, and they gave me every reason to think he will come," Sir Lawrence Byford, the Yorkshire president, said yesterday. There were voices on the committee suggesting that the search for a bowler be continued, but the demands of the sponsors, Yorkshire Television, for a world-class player were an important factor.

☐ Martyn Moxon, the Yorkshire captain, will lead England A against Essex at Lord's starting on April 13.

Birmingham get £50,000 warning

By Dennis Shaw

BIRMINGHAM City football club will be fined £50,000 and ordered to play two matches behind closed doors if their supporters seriously misbehave again before the end of next season.

This was the suspended sentence imposed on them by a five-man FA commission at St Andrew's yesterday for the pitch invasion against Stoke City on February 29 when play was interrupted for 38 minutes and Roger Wiseman, the referee, was assaulted.

Birmingham, whose defence was led by Jack Wiseman, an FA councillor and club director, were also instructed to enter discussions with the licensing authority about the ground structure and its management.

The police, who strongly supported the claim that all necessary crowd control precautions were in place, made 58 arrests, including the supporter who struck the referee.

Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, was yesterday charged by the FA with misconduct for the second time this year. Kinnear appeals later this month against the earlier punishment, a fine of £1,800 imposed after an incident involving match officials at a reserve game.

Now he will be back in the dock accused of abusing a linesman after last week's home defeat by Arsenal.

The players' ballot over strike action closed last night with no further talks scheduled between the Professional Footballers' Association and the Premier League. The result, which is expected to endorse industrial action, will be known on Monday.

When talks between the sides broke up in Manchester on Wednesday night, Rick Parry, the chief executive of the Premier League, said that there would be further talks before Monday. He has been unavailable since then, however, and last night he had not contacted Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the PFA, to arrange a meeting.

Theo Foley, the Northampton Town manager, his backroom staff and nine players were dismissed yesterday by the administrator appointed to run the affairs of the cash-strapped fourth division club after after an application to the Birmingham County Court.

Close of play at the Oval

ONE of the great cricket figures of the last decade has died, and has been buried at the Oval. I would like to extend this column's sympathies to all concerned, and to celebrate the life of Lucy, the Oval cat. Her career as a cricket cat began one day back in 1978, when she strolled into the pavvy, where she later had kittens. She finally pushed her luck too far when she invaded the committee room during a meeting, but her banishment was the start of a new life.

She joined the ground staff, working closely with Bill Gordon. Her duties were primarily in the workshop: "She was always with us," Gordon said. "She would always come onto the field with us, on the outfield or onto the square. Every interval during a match, she would come onto the field with us." She has been on television times without number, and was pictured in the offical history of the ground. But the ultimate accolade came when she appeared on the front page of this newspaper on September 3, 1988, in the company of Dickie Bird, a less dignified cricket person altogether.

A long, slight, delicately-made beast ("She looked like a Lucy"), she revelled in her six-acre back garden, loved the limelight, "and she was one of us for 14 years," Gordon said. She succumbed to kidney problems last week, aged around 16.

Mercy plea

GRAHAM Gooch, a great cricketer but never much of a politician, has been lobbying the Test and County Cricket Board and the International Cricket Council for the reinstatement of the last bunch of South African rebels, who sold out under Mike Gatting. This at least shows some generosity of spirit — Gooch served a full three-year ban for his own African adventuring. It seems to me like trying to get a jockey off a misuse-of-the-whip charge with the plea that the horse lost anyway. This is revealed in a new book, *Graham Gooch: The Biography*, by Ivo Tennant.

SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

Spellbound

EDUARADO Braga has been suspended from the Brazilian first division side, Bahia, because it is believed he has been using black magic to destroy his own club's season. Braga, the reserve right back, allegedly turned on his colleagues through the medium of an entity called Exú-Trancarua. There have been "inexplicable" injuries, "infantile" errors, and two midfielders badly fouled and ruled out. In a relegation match against Fluminese the allegedly bewitched Bahia goalie passed to an opposing forward to concede the decisive goal.

What a drag

PAKISTAN cricket has spice in it; the English game has salad cream. I bring you some incidents from the recent Patron's Trophy grade two championship final between House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) and Customs. The match was played at Karachi; the winners to be promoted to grade one, and first-class status. In the case of a draw, first-innings lead is decisive, and HBFC held that advantage. Came the fourth and final day:

HBFC bowled a total of eight overs in the first 80 minutes, while Customs were looking to have a thrash and declare quickly.

At 3.30 the umpires walked off in protest. They said Customs, now fielding, were damaging the pitch. A tournament official inspected the pitch, found no evidence, and, with some difficulty, persuaded the umps to go back out.

The HBFC captain, Munir-ul-Haq, then complained about the condition of the ball, and 25 minutes was spent in removing the shine.

The fielding side took position at 4.15. Munir, batting, did not. He was reported to be at prayer. The call to prayer was not heard until half an hour later.

Play at last resumed at 4.25. HBFC lost two wickets quickly. Munir, still batting, collapsed on the pitch. He was not hit or anything. He just keeled over. The umpires did not ask him to move. Another batsman was apparently sent out to replace him, but Munir stayed where he was. Play continued around him.

With 13 over left, the light good, and HBFC wobbling at 92 for five, the umpires took the bails off and said the match was over.

Customs have protested, and accused the umpires of manipulating the match for HBFC. HBFC had earlier been expelled from the tournament, for allegedly manhandling umpires, but were reinstated.

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WEEKEND TIMES

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ALLSPORT

Fatal fall: Becher's Brook, the most notorious of Aintree's 30 fences, has been the downfall of many horses. In 1989, however, it claimed the lives of Brown Trix (in the sequence above) and Seeandem. Public anger forced changes

Has the Grand National gone soft?

The Grand National used to be the toughest steeplechase in the world. But since it was made safer, has it lost its appeal as a test of horse and rider? Former winner Marcus Armytage reports

At 4pm today, 40 horses and riders will line up for the Martell Grand National, the world's greatest steeplechase. They will face the toughest, sternest challenge to man and beast. Or is it? Have the Aintree authorities and the Jockey Club combined to put a stepladder up the National Hunt's Everest?

The Grand National is still the race the jockeys want to win more than any other. For many, highly successful elsewhere, the highlight of their careers remains an unplaced clear-round in the race. Myself, I would rather win a second Grand National than I would a first Cheltenham Gold Cup. The type is now greater than ever and the sense of achieving that impossible dream awaits the first across the line.

But the fact is that, for better or worse, the race is becoming less of a challenge than it was. It is still four miles and 856 yards over the 30 most daunting fences in the land. But the character of the Grand National is undeniably changing . . . for the worse.

No longer can the jockey riding a 100-1 outsider set off, like John Buckingham did on Foinavon in 1967, believing he had the same chance as the favourite. No longer will legends be made of horses like Freddie, Wyndburgh, Tiberetta and The Pilgarlic, who consistently jumped round the course year after year.

As the challenge diminishes, so will the prestige of the race. There are already those who mutter that the race is becoming just another long-distance handicap and that the Maryland Hunt Cup and the Velka Pardubice are tougher races to win.

The National is the race that embodies the main principles of National Hunt racing: the combination of stamina, and the ability and agility to jump well. It is now being won by a different type of horse where the emphasis is as much upon speed as it is on an ability to jump well.

Changes and improvements to Aintree over its 153-year history are not new. When it was first run in 1839 the course was ploughed land, the depth of which depended on the weather and what was planted in each particular field. The heaviest plough, it was said, through a "diabolical trick of nature", immediately preceded Becher's Brook. However, the fences in those days were mainly 2ft banks with live-gorse tops. In 1844 one journalist was moved to suggest that the "fences at Aintree are so small that one needs a microscope to discover them".

In 1885 the course became all grass and was railed for the first time. Becher's Brook was 9ft 6in wide and 6ft deep. The Canal Turn, 5ft high, was preceded by a 6ft wide, open ditch.

In 1928 the victory of the 100-1 outsider, Tipperary Tim, resulted in calls for a parliamentary bill to do something about the race. His success was largely due to a pile-up caused by Easter Hero, which landed on top of the Canal Turn and fell back into the ditch just when the rest of the field arrived. Some 20 competitors fell and only two finished.

As well as the filling-in of the Canal Turn's ditch, 1931 saw the introduction of more stringent conditions of entry (they have continued to get tighter) and a new minimum age of six. The bottom weight was raised to put off the no-hopers. In 1954 the ditch at Becher's was lifted for the first time, and for the 1961 race, spruce and gorse aprons were placed in front of the fences, take-off boards added and the tops of each fence rounded to make them more inviting and less like upright "brick walls".

John Parrett, Aintree's clerk of the course, has made the most radical changes since the additions of aprons. He has drained the three low areas on the course near the Canal Turn and replaced Aintree's wooden wings and the "Liverpool rail" (metal uprights with wooden top rails) with safe, plastic replicas and running rails.

These are improvements for the better. His most controversial changes were made to Becher's Brook and Valentine's Brook for 1990, although there had been no fatality at the latter since the mid-1930s. Mr Parrett's predecessor, John Hughes, had withstood enormous pressure to alter the Chair following the nine fallers there in 1979. However, after the two fatalities at Becher's Brook in 1989, the panic-stricken Aintree authorities made several changes.

The right-hand running rail on landing at Becher's was pushed back, a hedge planted and sheeting erected. "People used to lean through, waving racecards and distracting horses as they were landing," Mr Parrett says. He feels this has made the most significant impact on the fence, more so than the lifting of the ditch to take away the acute "V" shape on landing, and the levelling of the backward slope.

"We tried to maintain the standard, but reduce the price of failure," Mr Parrett says. "I believe the race is now harder to win. There are always four or five in with a chance crossing the Melling Road, with horsemanship, horse and luck thoroughly tested. In the old days it was usually one horse out on its own. Since 1984, 58 per cent have failed to complete the race. No other chase has that record and the result is still unpredictable. I also think it is good that we are attracting a better class of horse."

Last year I felt another change was in the stiffness of the fences. They are, after all, the same height, averaging 5ft, but whereas in the old days one could only just flick through the tops like Red Rum did so nimbly, so often, it is now possible to "walk" through some fences. The last fence in 1991 was barely bigger than a hurdle for the stragglers. But softer is not necessarily safer.

"In my days as a jockey," trainer Jeff King says, "the race was won by jumping. By making the fences softer, too easy, you get a faster pace. Now it is the pace that is causing injuries."

John Buckingham steered Foinavon through the mêlée at the 23rd fence in 1967. He has been a jockeys' valet since retiring in 1971. "You notice the change in jockeys' moods now. It really was a challenge, touch-and-go whether you got round. Without fail the first thing they used to ask when they came in was whether or not everyone had come home safely; not now. The fairy-tales are disappearing and it has become a race for class horses. I feel the atmosphere disappearing."

Armytage: it's still no walkover

Hywel Davies won the race in 1985 on Last Suspect. He set the pace for the record-shattering 1990 National on Uncle Merlin, until he was unseated at Becher's the second time around. "It is not as formidable as it was even when I started," he says.

Rinus, ridden by 1984 winner Neale Doughty who has completed seven times in eight attempts, fell at the twentieth last year. "Rinus walked through Becher's and the Chair without looking like falling. Eventually he was encouraged to take one liberty too many. I agree with some modifications, but how far do we go before they want to fill in the Chair's ditch? The thrill of Aintree is seeing, or riding as I did on Hallo Dandy, a horse jumping to its maximum. It must remain that way."

In stark contrast to National Hunt racing, the two other main equestrian sports where horses compete over obstacles competitively at speed — show-jumping and eventing — have seen fences get bigger and technically more difficult over the past 30 years. In a way the Grand National is a victim of its own popularity.

"I was against the changes they made to Becher's," champion jockey Peter Scudamore says. "It is not the same as it was when my father, Michael, won the race on Oxo, but nor is steeplechasing. They rode with a long length of leg and hunted round much of the time. Even if you went to Leicester the fences were big and black. Now we have a different type of steeplechaser coming off the Flat. Aintree still has the biggest fences in England, but we crave television coverage and with that size of audience you just can't justify racing over the fences of old."

Reg Green, Grand National *aficionado*, believes the softening of the fences is the result of a fence rebuilding policy that ended in 1983.

"They used to completely replace the core (wooden stakes 2ft 6in in the ground) of six fences a year and go round the course in rotation. Now it is just the broken stakes that are replaced. There is no doubt horses can make mistakes these days that they couldn't in the past, but to win, an exemplary round of jumping is still necessary."

For the jockey, one of the great tactical deliberations before a National used to be whether to go down the inner, middle or outer to the drop on Becher's Brook. You would never contemplate going down the steep inside (23in drop) on a dodgy jumper. Instead you would settle for the safer outer (17in). The drop is still there, although the backwards sloping lip (worse on the inside) on landing has been levelled.

Theoretically this does not affect most horses who jump out over it, but it does not seem quite the same on horseback. There is a greater queue of horses looking to go the quickest way now; it is not the risk it once was.

But not all jockeys are unhappy with the evolution of a new course and a new race. Some are in favour of the changes that have been implemented over the years. Brendan Powell, winner on Rhyme 'N' Reason in 1988, two years after breaking his arm at the third, reasons: "I still find it a formidable course when I walk it. It used to take the horses a while to adjust to park fences again, now Aintree leaves less of a mark on their minds.

"The organisers haven't changed much, except for the lip at Becher's; the ditches are still the same. You could possibly get away with more of a mistake, but you tell me one horse capable of jumping round any course without a single error," Powell says. "I think they have got it about right now. It is still as exciting as it always was and when we're told to put our caps on in the changing room we still experience the same butterflies as our predecessors did 20 or 30 years ago."

So are those who called for the changes now satisfied? Maybe not the animal rights group, which delayed last year's start by eight minutes — indirectly endangering the runners, who were impatient to get going.

But the RSPCA is satisfied. David Wilkins, its chief veterinary officer, says: "Some of our members ask why we don't totally oppose the National. The answer is that if we did, we would have to do something about other long-distance chases, then we would have to think about stopping children riding cross-country. It would be impractical. There is always an element of risk and we have always looked at reducing that risk."

He believes that in the Grand National the risk was unacceptably high. "There have been a lot of changes for the better, most notably to Becher's. We also argued that an autumn race over the course would give horses another chance to acquaint themselves with the course. I'm glad to see that coming in.

"Our main worry now concerns the maximum number of runners. We would like to see it reduced from 40 to 30, which would not detract from the excitement. Also, one always hopes that trainers run fit horses — and put up skilful riders — in the race. However, it is not something you can legislate against."

The latter problem has, to a large extent, been solved by the Jockey Club's tighter rules on inexperienced riders and the stringent medicals that all jockeys must pass before being granted a licence.

However, I think the race has lost some of its romance without the likes of the Duc d'Alburquerque, the great Spanish nobleman, and the American Tim Durant, the "galloping grandfather", who used to back himself at huge odds just to complete.

The duke was, first and foremost, a horseman, even if his bed in Walton Hospital was booked the same day he entered his horse in the race. Characters like these, competent but different, were as much a part of the race's rich folklore as the unforgettable Red Rums and Corbieres.

● *Marcus Armytage has ridden in the Grand National three times. He won the race in 1990 on Mr Frisk. This article first appeared in* The Field.

Grand National special, pages 32, 33

The toughest challenge of all is picking a winner

The Grand National has always been considered the sternest test of the National Hunt season (*Paul Wheeler of our racing staff writes*). In the last ten years, out of 398 runners, only 151 have completed the course. Since 1984, a total of six horses have been killed in the race.

Casualties have always been a trademark of the Grand National, and alterations were finally made to the course after a public outcry in 1989 when two horses, Brown Trix and Seeandem, were killed at Becher's Brook. While some die-hards may object, the truth is that racing is no longer the closed world that it once was. Through television the sport cannot remain oblivious to public scrutiny, or opinion.

The main alterations, to Becher's Brook, were an attempt to retain the challenge without exacting the ultimate price for those who fail to meet it. This was done by filling in the ditch on the landing side into which some horses had become trapped after falling. The fall in ground from the level at which the fence is jumped on the approach side was also built up.

In addition to alterations to the course in the interests of safety have been those to the composition of the field itself. The rules governing runners and riders have been tightened, keeping out some of the fairy-story entries of previous years; it has, however, encouraged more high-class entries for the race.

Last year's Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Garrison Savannah, made a brave bid to become the first horse since Golden Miller in 1934 to win both races in the same season when finishing second to Seagram. And now Cool Ground, this year's winner of steeplechasing's blue riband, will be looking to go one better.

Recent winners like Seagram, Mr Frisk, Rhyme 'N' Reason and West Tip have tended to signpost their chances earlier in the season, and there have been fewer results that have left backers burning their form books in frustration.

However this does not always make the result any easier to predict as the victory of Last Suspect, at 50-1, and Maori Venture and Little Polveir, both at 28-1, proved. The race may be safer, and it certainly has more quality, but it still hard to pick the winner.

1642 AND ALL THAT, PAGES 10,11

It is Civil War year in England and the nation has been called to arms. Don't miss our unique guide

HALF-PRICE HOTELS, PAGE 16

You've read the articles, saved the tokens, now find out where you can enjoy your half-price getaway

FILM

LA BELLE NOISEUSE (15): Jacques Rivette's hypnotic exploration of a painter and his model, struggling to complete an abandoned canvas. Close to a masterpiece. With Michel Piccoli, Emmanuelle Béart, Jane Birkin. **Chelsea** (071-351 3742/3743) **Metro** (071-437 0757) **Renoir** (071-837 8402).

BRANCHES OF THE TREE: Four generations of middle-class Bengalis come under Satyajit Ray's microscope. Talky but mellow disquisition on life's vicissitudes. **National Film Theatre** (071-928 3232).

BUGSY (18): Warren Beatty as Bugsy Siegel, the gangster who invented Las Vegas. Sleek, witty, dazzling to behold. Starring Annette Bening; director, Barry Levinson. **Camden Parkway** (071-267 7034) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426 915683) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

CAPE FEAR (18): Demonic ex-con Robert De Niro terrorises Nick Nolte and family. Martin Scorsese's ferocious remake of a classic revenge thriller. With Jessica Lange, Juliette Lewis. **Camden Parkway** (071-267 7034) **Empire** (071-497 9999) **MGM Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

Doubting wife: Goldie Hawn in *Deceived*

DECEIVED (15): Goldie Hawn as the wife who doubts her husband's identity. Psychological thriller, weak on story, but strong on atmosphere. Damien Harris directs. **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **West End** (0426 915574).

FREEJACK (15): Emilio Estevez is kidnapped into the future for a mind transplant. Depressing high-tech adventure; with Mick Jagger, Anthony Hopkins. Director, Geoff Murphy. **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

FRIED GREEN TOMATOES AT THE WHISTLE STOP CAFE (12): Heart-warming lives of feisty folks down South. Shallow, but ingratiating. With Kathy Bates, Jessica Tandy, Mary Stuart Masterson; director, Jon Avnet. **Barbican** (071-638 8891) **Notting Hill Coronet** (071-727 6705) **Odeons: Haymarket** (0426 915353) **Kensington** (0426 914666) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

HIGH HEELS (18): Lukewarm, talkative melodrama of family secrets from Spain's master of camp, Pedro Almodóvar. With Victoria Abril, Marisa Paredes. **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Gate** (071-727 4043) **Lumière** (071-836 0691) **Screen on the Hill** (071-435 3366).

JFK (15): Oliver Stone's contentious, electrifying, three-hour drama about the Kennedy assassination. Kevin Costner, as crusading D.A. Jim Garrison, plus a busting supporting cast. **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeon Mezzanine** (0426 915683) **Plaza** (071-497 9999).

KUFFS (15). Immature police protection officer (Christian Slater) avenges the death of his elder brother. Flashy but feeble addition to Hollywood's cop comedies. Director, Bruce A. Evans. **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

MY OWN PRIVATE IDAHO (18): Gus Van Sant's quirky portrait of two drifters searching for a home. With River Phoenix, Keanu Reeves. **Camden Plaza** (071-485 2443) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279/379 7025) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Screen on the Green** (071-226 3520).

THE PRINCE OF TIDES (15): New York psychiatrist helps football coach face family secrets. Romantic drama grandly acted by Nick Nolte. Barbra Streisand directs and co-stars. **MGM Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** (0426 915683) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

SCORSESE X 4: A chance to see a stimulating collection of Martin Scorsese's student films, including his 1974 work entitled *Italianamerican*, a loving portrait of his parents in New York's Little Italy. **ICA** (071-930 3647).

THEATRE

LONDON

THE ALCHEMIST: Jonathan Hyde and Philip Voss head a grand cast in Jonson's satire, transferring to a larger stage after last year's sell-out at the Swan. **Barbican**, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm; opens April 15, 7pm.

BERLIN BERTIE: Strongly cast Howard Brenton drama, with Diana Rigg fleeing from East Berlin to her sister (Penny Downie) but pursued by the sinister Bertie (Nicholas Woodeson). **Royal Court**, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Previews from Thurs, 8pm; opens April 14, 8pm.

THE DARK RIVER: Accomplished revival of Rodney Ackland's 1937 drama: naïvety and nostalgia in an England drifting towards war. **Orange Tree**, Clarence Street, Richmond (081-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

FLAMINGO: The "Beyond Europe" season continues with Topher Campbell's drama of a Nigeria poised between the end of military dictatorship and the return of civilian rule. **Gate**, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (071-229 0706). Previews Wed, Thurs 7.30pm; no performance Fri; opens next Sat, 7.30pm.

FROM A JACK TO A KING: Witty and stylish version of Macbeth's climb to the top, set in the world of rock bands and packed with Sixties songs. **Boulevard**, Walker's Court, off Peter Street, W1 (071-437 2661 after 2pm). Mon-Sat, 8.15pm, Fri late show, 10.30pm, mat Sat, 6pm.

GOOD ROCKIN' TONITE: Satisfying musical celebrating Fifties and Sixties pop classics. Great stuff. **Playhouse**, Northumberland Avenue (071-839 4401). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm.

HEARTBREAK HOUSE: Paul Scofield and Vanessa Redgrave head Trevor Nunn's splendid cast in Shaw's timeless, state-of-England drama. **Theatre Royal**, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE: Trevor Nunn's engrossing production: David Haig fatally tempted by Claire Skinner in Freud's Vienna. **Young Vic**, The Cut, SE1 (071-620 0411/928 6363). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2pm.

Belinda Lang, Malcolm Sinclair in *Dark River*

THE POPE AND THE WITCH: Dario Fo's anarchic comedy pits a cowering pontiff (Berwick Kaler) and an eccentric therapist (Frances de la Tour) against a Mafia-run Vatican. **Comedy**, Panton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045). Previews from Mon, 8pm, opens April 13, 7pm. Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

PYGMALION: Frances Barber as Eliza, Alan Howard as Higgins, in Shaw's play about the value of speaking proper. ***National (Olivier)***, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Previews Mon-Wed, 7.15pm; opens Thurs, 7pm; then in repertoire.

REFLECTED GLORY: New Ronald Harwood play with Albert Finney and Stephen Moore: a reconciliation between two brothers is threatened when one sibling decides to put the other in his new play. **Vaudeville**, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Previews from Thurs, 8pm, opens April 8, 7pm.

THE SEA: Judi Dench splendid as the village grande-dame in Edward Bond's comedy of rage and madness. **National (Lyttelton)**, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tues, Wed, 7.30pm, mat Wed, 2.15pm. Final performances.

SIKULU: By the creators of *Ipi Tombi*, a South-African song-and-dance drama of a man's search for father and fatherland. **Queen's**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5040). Preview Tues, 8pm, opens Wed 7pm, then Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat 5pm and 8.30pm.

STRAIGHT AND NARROW: Nicholas Lyndhurst, Neil Daglish and Carmel McSharry in likeable comedy about a doting mother's worries, notably her gay son. **Wyndham's**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

A WOMAN KILLED WITH KINDNESS: Saskia Reeves in Heywood's Yorkshire tragedy: Katie Mitchell's first RSC production is a vivid creation of country life. **The Pit**, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm, opens April 14, 7pm, then in repertoire.

REGIONAL

LEEDS: British premiere of *Three Girls in Blue* by Ludmila Petrushevskaya, passionate exponent of women's experience in modern Russia. **Courtyard**, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Quarry Hill Mount (0532 442111). Previews Thurs, Fri, 7.45pm; opens next Sat, 7.45pm.

LEICESTER: Sondheim's jaunty musical, *Merrily We Roll Along*, centering on the adventures of three young hopefuls; Paul Kerryson directs. **Haymarket**, Belgrave Gate (0533 539797). Previews from Fri, 8pm; opens April 14.

BASINGSTOKE: Peter Duncan plays Chaplin in David Pomeranz' musical *The Little Tramp*: "his loves, his triumphs, his moments of despair". **Haymarket**, Wote Street (0256 465566). Preview Tues, 7.45pm; opens Wed, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat (April 18, 25), 4pm.

SOUTHAMPTON: *A New World & the Tears of the Indian*: Adrian Mitchell sets a Lope de Vega play in a broader context, with black actor Hugh Quarshie as Columbus. **Nuffield**, University Road (0703 671771). Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm; opens April 14.

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: Vernon Handley conducts the RPO in a programme of British music from the earlier part of this century. The retrospective includes Vaughan Williams's *A London Symphony*, Delius's *A Walk to the Paradise Garden*, and two comparative rarities in Bantock's Overture *The Pierrot of the Minute* and Finzi's Cello Concerto. Raphael Wallfisch is the soloist in the last piece. **Barbican Centre**, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891), Mon, 7.45pm.

MUSICA CONTEXTA: The English 16th-century composer John Sheppard, whose reputation has been somewhat overshadowed by his near-contemporaries John Taverner and Thomas Tallis, wrote characterful liturgical music of great beauty. A new choir called Musica Contexta made up of young professional singers and choral scholars, somewhat unseasonally sings a reconstruction of the First Mass of Christmas as it might have been celebrated in 1557 in the English Chapel Royal. It includes Sheppard's *Missa Cantate*, as well as two motets, *Verbum caro* and *Laudes Deo*. Simon Rawlins conducts. **St John's**, Smith Square, London SW1 (071-222 1061), Tues, 7.30pm.

WALLACE COLLECTION: Too often concerts of brass music resort to arrangements or pieces whose departing point is, in language and intent, conservatism (with a small c, of course). John Wallace's group, however, is guided by a virtuoso of intelligence and vision, so this programme includes substantial pieces by Elliott Carter (Brass Quintet), Sir Michael Tippett (Sonata for four horns), Sir Peter Maxwell Davies (Brass Quintet) and Witold Lutoslawski (Mini Overture). **Purcell Room**, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), tonight, 8pm.

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Daniel Barenboim brings the orchestra to London for the first time as its music director for two concerts which open the London International Orchestral Season. The programme of the first concert is conservative — Beethoven's *Leonore No 3*, Mozart's Piano Concerto K453 (with Barenboim as soloist) and Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben*. In the second, however, pieces by Ravel are complemented by John Corigliano's highly effective and personal response to the AIDS crisis, his First Symphony. **Festival Hall**, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), Fri, next Sat, 7.30pm.

LONDON SINFONIETTA: Oliver Knussen borrows the reins from *Simon Rattle for this instalment* of the "Towards the Millennium" super-series. He conducts the group in a wide variety of works from the second decade of our century, ranging from Falla's *El Amor Brujo* and Prokofiev's First Symphony to Webern's Five Orchestral Pieces, Op 10, Schoenberg's *Herzgewächse*, Stravinsky's *Two Poems of Balmont* and *Three Japanese Lyrics*, and Ives's *Washington's Birthday*. Lucy Shelton and Mary King are the singers. **Queen Elizabeth Hall**, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), Tues, 7.45pm. **Town Hall**, Birmingham (021-236 2390), Wed, 8pm.

THE PHILHARMONIA: The veteran conductor Carlo Maria Giulini visits London for a pair of concerts with the Philharmonia. The programme each time is the same: Tchaikovsky's Second Symphony and two works by Debussy — the *Prelude à l'après-midi d'un faune* and *La mer*. **Festival Hall**, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), Mon and Tues, 7.30pm.

OPERA

ST PETERSBURG GALA: Covent Garden is hosting both the opera and ballet companies of the Maryinsky Theatre in St Petersburg in a gala celebrating the history of what was until recently known as the home of the Kirov. Soloists, orchestra, chorus and dancers from the two companies are taking part in the evening, which will feature extracts from great Russian works including the operas *Eugene Onegin*, *Boris Godunov* and *Prince Igor* and the ballets *Swan Lake* and *Le Corsaire*. Tickets cost £100, all proceeds from the evening are to be shared between the State Maryinsky Theatre and the Royal Opera House Trust. **Royal Opera House**, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066), Thurs 7pm.

DON CARLOS: Mark Elder conducts a strong cast in the English National Opera's production of Verdi's opera by David Pountney, a vast, grand drama of conflict between personal and political demands in 16th-century Spain. Rosalind Plowright returns to the house as Elisabeth, Edmund Barham sings Don Carlos, Linda Finnie is Princess Eboli and Richard Van Allan lords it as the Grand Inquisitor. **Coliseum**, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), tonight and Wed, 6.15pm.

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: The company brings its acclaimed *Pelléas et Mélisande* to Bristol (Tues, Thurs) alongside its *The Magic Flute* (Wed, next Sat) and Verdi's *Ernani* (Fri). **Hippodrome**, Bristol (0272 299444), Tues-next Sat, 7.15pm.

ROCK

THE GIANTS OF MOTOWN: A nostalgic extravaganza featuring The Temptations and The Four Tops plus The Supremes, Martha Reeves and The Marvelettes. **Wembley Arena**, Wembley, Middlesex (081-900 1234), tomorrow, 6pm. **NEC**, Birmingham (021-780 4133), Mon, Tues, 6pm.

THE HIGHWAYMEN: The cream of country comes to town as Johnny Cash teams up with Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson and Willie Nelson. Dates in Birmingham, Sheffield, Dublin and Belfast follow. **Wembley Arena** (as above), Fri, 7pm.

JAZZ

JAZZ EXPLOSION '92: It is seven years since the last Jazz Explosion but this all-star feast makes up for the delay with an impressive line-up including club favourite, the soul singer Tammy Wayne, funk artist Betty Wright, versatile tenor saxophonist Ronnie Laws, percussionist Paulinho Da Costa and bass player Keni Burke. **Hammersmith Odeon**, London W6 (081-748 4081), tomorrow, 5.30pm and 8.30pm.

MARK SPRINGER/SARAH SARHANDI: This exciting piano and viola duo originally came together for offbeat improvisational bands such as Rip Rig & Panic and Float Up CP. More than a decade later, they now provide a more mature, almost classical sound. **Purcell Room**, South Bank (071-928 8800), Fri, 8pm.

JEFF HOOPER: Mellow crooning from the voice of the Syd Lawrence Orchestra. Expect well-sung hits from Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Tony Bennett and others. **Pizza on the Park**, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (071-235 5273), tomorrow, 8pm.

Jonathan Summers as Posa, left, and Edmund Barham as Carlos in Don Carlos

EVENINGS OUT

MARIE HELVIN
MODEL AND FASHION DESIGNER

"I'd really like to see the Chinese movie, *Raise the Red Lantern*. It's about one man and his four wives and is set in China in the Twenties. I'm hooked on films about that period. I want to see *Mississippi Masala*. I'm a big fan of the director, Mira Nair. Her movie, *Salaam Bombay*, is one of my all time favourites. I'm thrilled that *Death and the Maiden* with Juliet Stevenson has transferred to the Duke of York's Theatre. I tried to see it a couple of times when it was at the Royal Court, but the place is so small it was always booked out. Set in South America, the play is about a medical student who comes across the doctor who tortured and raped her 15 years before. It's had incredible reviews. I'll also be going to Harvey's on Wandsworth Common, where they do the most extraordinary oysters with tagliatelle."

DANCE

WHITE OAK DANCE PROJECT: The great Russian classical dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov has traded in his white tights in favour of bare feet in his new guise as modern dancer. This Sadler's Wells season introduces to Britain the troupe he formed two years ago to showcase contemporary American choreography. Among the dancemakers are Martha Clarke, David Gordon, Lar Lubovitch, Meredith Monk, Paul Taylor and Mark Morris. Baryshnikov is expected to dance in every programme. **Sadler's Wells Theatre**, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), today, Tues-Wed, Fri, next Sat, 7.30pm.

ADVENTURES IN MOTION PICTURES: This company, recently nominated for an Olivier award, presents the first London showing of Matthew Bourne's latest dancework, a full-length "double-feature" inspired by the cinematic career of Alfred Hitchcock. In the first half of *Deadly Serious*, the choreographer takes his cue from the film-maker's early black-and-white classics, especially *Rebecca*; the second half brings the Technicolor masterpieces of the Fifties, such as *Rear Window* and *The Birds*. The production opens with a gala benefit for Crusaid on Tuesday night. Presented as part of the Spring Loaded Festival. **The Place Theatre**, 17 Duke's Road, London WC1 (071-387 0031), Tues-next Sat, 8pm.

THE ROYAL BALLET: Covent Garden's resident company performs in Bristol today before moving on to the Birmingham Hippodrome next week. On offer is Kenneth MacMillan's wonderfully passionate *Manon* and a triple bill of Ashton's cool *Monotones*, MacMillan's Chekhov ballet *Winter Dreams* and Balanchine's glorious Bizet ballet *Symphony in C*. **Hippodrome**, St Augustine's Parade, Bristol (0272 299 444), today, 2.30pm, 7.30pm. **Hippodrome**, Hurst Street, Birmingham (021-622 7486), Mon-next Sat, 7.30pm.

ART

CIVIL WAR: The Royal Armouries inaugurate their first ever series of touring exhibitions with one devoted to arms and armour from the English Civil War period. The centrepieces are Charles I's ornate gilt armour (whether or not it was ever actually worn in combat) and Oliver Cromwell's sword, which pretty certainly saw action. Along with these there are replica arms and armour for visitors to wear and handle. **Town Docks Museum**, Hull (0482 593902). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 1.30-4.30pm, opens Wed until May 31.

LIVING WOOD: After a run of exhibitions representing the wilder shores of avant-gardism, the Whitechapel Art Gallery returns to history. The "living wood" in question comes in the form of sculpture from South India, produced by a living tradition and all of it quite recent, however ancient the design: the original works have rotted away, and little survives from earlier than the 18th century. Moreover, this is a folk tradition, often coarsely carved and garishly coloured, and therefore long considered unworthy of serious attention in the West. Now that audiences have been primed with shows like the celebration of Mexican Death Day at the Museum of Mankind, of course attitudes are very different. **Whitechapel Art Gallery**, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (071-377 0107). Tues-Sun, 11am-5pm (Wed to 8pm), opens Tues to May 31.

GBS in pen and ink by Powys Evans

BERNARD SHAW 1856-1950: One of the National Portrait Gallery's generous biographical exhibitions (this time linked with the publication of Michael Holroyd's much-praised biography), this does not have as its main thrust the showing of art *per se*. On the other hand, few figures of the 20th century apart from dictators have been so obsessively depicted in painting, sculpture and photography, and Shaw himself wrote on the subject of contemporary art. As well as the Queen Mother's Augustus John portrait and the Rodin bronze from RADA, the show includes a lot of documentary material about Shaw's work on stage. **NPG**, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (071-306 0055). Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, opens Tues to July 5.

REMBRANDT: Unlike most Old Masters, Rembrandt has been news for the last decade, owing largely to the activities of the Rembrandt Committee, which has been demoting large numbers of once-revered Rembrandts into the work of pupils and followers. This show comes to London from Berlin and Amsterdam, and consists of 46 paintings accepted by the committee, plus 12 now ascribed to lesser men, with background material to elucidate the criteria. **National Gallery**, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-839 3321). Daily, 10am-6pm (Wed, Fri to 9pm), until May 24.

DRAWINGS BY REMBRANDT AND HIS CIRCLE: The Committee has yet to turn its attention fully on Rembrandt's drawings. But in his catalogue and the show itself Martin Royalton-Kisch has not hesitated to anticipate: the BM's own extensive holding has been closely scrutinised, and a considerable number also demoted to follower status. The show is not the same as the drawings exhibition seen in Berlin and Amsterdam, but homemade, mostly from the 80-odd Rembrandt (or Rembrandt-connected) works in the Department of Prints and Drawings. **British Museum**, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-636 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm, until August 4.

THE SOVEREIGN EXHIBITION — A CELEBRATION OF 40 YEARS: The V&A's exhibition is the focal point of the fortieth anniversary of the Queen's accession. The Royal College of Art has designed and constructed the show. A dazzling array of decorations and uniforms is promised, as are sections offering an insight into the Queen's relationship with the Commonwealth and the media, and her changing fashions. **Victoria and Albert Museum**, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (071-938 8500). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm. Until September 13.

SALEROOMS

THIS WEEK: British is best in terms of watercolours and paintings. For the former, Phillips kick off on Monday at 2pm with a sale showing the 19th-century Henry Gastineau at his best (up to £15,000) and a coastal Edward Duncan which could be still better, despite an estimate of only up to £8,000. On Tuesday at 10.30am Christie's follow with a good sale featuring the work of Francis Towne and his disciple John White-Abbott. On Thursday at 11am Sotheby's have *five Turners, at least one of* which should exceed £100,000, as well as a Gertin rediscovery at up to £80,000, and two good Samuel Palmers. British oil paintings are at Sotheby's on Wednesday, 11am and 2.30pm, including a portrait of Captain Bligh attributed to John Webber (up to £150,000) which might be cheap if the attribution were to be accepted. At Christie's on Friday at 11am the undoubted star should be Zoffany's *Colonel Mordaunt's Cock Fight* (£1 million plus), one of the icons of the early British Raj. **Phillips**, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 6602). **Christie's**, King Street, St James's, London SW1 (071-839 9060). **Sotheby's**, New Bond Street, London W1 (071-493 8080).

TUESDAY: Among the small silver items offered by Capes Dunn in Manchester at midday is an ideal present for the natty gent, a Victorian combined cigarette sovereign and stamp case. **Capes Dunn**, 38 Charles Street, Manchester (061-273 1911).

WEDNESDAY: Beame's of Torquay offer choice ceramics and glass, including a dish decorated by Picasso (up to £1,000), 10.30am. In London, Christie's South Kensington has European works of art at 10.30am, and carpets and furniture from 12.30pm. Phillips offer the collection and designs of John Wadsworth (1879-1955), art director of Mintons and Worcester, together with studio ceramics by his son Philip Wadsworth who died last year, 11am. **Beame's**, Rainbow Avenue Road, Torquay (0803 296277). **Christie's South Kensington**, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (071-581 7611). **Phillips** (as above).

VIDEOS

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER (Castle, PG): Dashing Sidney Poitier, that's who, making feathers fly in the hidebound home of Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy. Nimble playing offsets the treacly sentiment, but whatever became of Katharine Houghton, cast as Poitier's intended bride? 1967.

POLICE (Artificial Eye, 15): Uncomfortable, brooding thriller from Maurice Pialat, French cinema's master of misanthropy. With Gérard Depardieu as a tough inspector, stirring up trouble in Paris's Arab community, and thrown off-balance by a girl in a drugs case. 1985.

THE THREE OF US (Connoisseur, PG): Charm is a rarity in modern cinema, though Italian director Pupi Avati summons it up at will in this seductive, beautifully photographed tale about young Mozart in Bologna, toying between adolescent love and the solitude of artistic creation. 1987.

YOUNG SOUL REBELS (Braveworld, 18): Seductively shot but unwieldy stew of soul music, murder mystery, gay love, racial politics and anti-Establishment satire, set in Jubilee Britain, 1977. An ambitious first feature for director Isaac Julien. 1991.

BOOKINGS

MUSIC ON A SUMMER EVENING: The season of open air concerts at Kenwood, Marble Hill and Audley End begins on June 6 and runs until September 5. On June 21 Mark Ermler conducts the Royal Opera and Orchestra in Saint-Saëns's *Samson et Dalila* (including fireworks). The cast includes the distinguished Russian tenor Vladimir Popov singing alongside fellow Russian Olga Borodina as Dalila. On August 16 English National Opera puts in an appearance with conductor Mark Elder to perform Puccini's *La Bohème*. A strong lineup of soloists includes Arthur Davies, Jane Eaglen, Lesley Garrett and Jonathan Summers. Booking through Ticketmaster: 071-413 1443 (no booking fee).

SURAYA HILAL: The Cairo-born choreographer and dancer first learned to dance in the traditional way within the family, and following her studies in America travelled extensively in the Middle East, observing many different forms of oriental dance technique. Her fine and accessible interpretations of ancient Egyptian dance reappraise and extend established forms. **Sadler's Wells Theatre**, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), April 23-25.

May dates: Canadian crooner k.d. lang

GRAND HOTEL: The Broadway hit musical, based on the novel by Vicki Baum about the goings on at the Grand Hotel in Twenties Berlin, comes to London. An all-American cast includes Liliane Montevecchi as the lonely ballerina Grushinskaya, the role unforgettably played by Garbo in the Thirties film version. **Dominion**, Tottenham Court Road, London WC2 (071-580 9562), previews from June 6; opens June 16.

K.D. LANG: Following the release of her fourth album, *Ingénue*, the Canadian country crooner announces dates in May. **Symphony Hall**, Birmingham (021-212 3333), 5. **Royal Concert Hall**, Glasgow (041-227 5511), 6. **Hammersmith Odeon**, London (081-748 4081), 8, 9

Film: Geoff Brown; **Theatre:** Jeremy Kingston; **Classical. Music and Opera:** Stephen Pettitt; **Rock and Jazz:** Stephanie Osborne, **Dance:** Debra Craine; **Exhibitions:** John Russell Taylor; **Videos:** Geoff Brown; **Bookings:** Karl Knight; **Salerooms:** Huon Mallalieu

Devilry over a liquid lunch

Lynne Truss analyses Kingsley Amis's pickled taffies to find out what makes their ingredients so enjoyable yet so jarring

REVIEW

When Kingsley Amis won the Booker Prize in 1986 for *The Old Devils*, he was asked how he would spend the money. "Booze, of course," he said, "and then curtains." It was an ambiguous statement. Presumably he had in mind chintzy things from John Lewis, but he might equally have been referring lightheartedly to the undiscover'd country from whose bourn etcetera.

Booze does not of necessity lead to curtains, of course; for some people it is a mere social lubricant. But in the context of *The Old Devils* (certainly as seen in BBC2's three-part adaptation, which finished on Monday) the connection between booze and curtains was so strong as to keep the prospect of sudden death ever to the forefront of one's mind.

As Gwyn Thomas wrote: "There are parts of Wales where the only concession to gaiety is a striped shroud," and sometimes the Bible and Crown's smoke room looked like one of them.

I did not read *The Old Devils* in 1986. I made some brave stabs but gave up, on the grounds that it was too complicated and that the differences between the many no-hope pickled taffies (and their many no-hope pickled wives) was taking too long to become clear.

I got a bit huffy, actually, and considered writing to the publishers, suggesting they paste a helpful chart in the back of the book. In the end, I made a few weary notes ("Gwen married to Malcolm"; "Muriel married to . . . er, Peter?"; "Charlie fat, Peter also fat").

In any case, my attempts finally faltered on page 57, where a character called Alun Weaver suddenly assumes the unmistakeable voice of Amis himself and informs his wife: "Any man in the company of two women is outnumbered four to one." Oh blimey, what's this? I thought, my hackles rising. Perhaps it was supposed to be a joke, but my sides were refusing to split.

Unfortunately, Weaver warms to his lamentable theme: in the company of *three* women, he explains, a man is outnumbered *nine* to one. "What they call a square law," he says, jocularly.

Oh dear, oh dear. His wife, instead of accidentally pushing a piece of heavy furniture on to Mr Weaver's foot, finds his pleasantry amusing. I grimaced. This was clearly not the book for me. So I put it aside and returned to my usual diet of dour little feminist tracts, and books that required less effort, such as *God and the New Physics* and *A Brief History of Time*.

As television, then, *The Old Devils* came as a wonderful surprise. In adapting it, Andrew Davies brought out all the positive qualities that other people can see in Kingsley Amis, but that I never can. These poor old Welsh souls were suddenly a fine subject; their lives were funny, tragic and convincingly real. I laughed; I cried; I didn't get worked up by the unfairness to women. With a few deft introductory scenes, Davies established who was married to whom ("It's all right, Charlie, Sophie's here"), and the game was afoot. He made it look quite easy.

In particular, this Alun Weaver fellow (the beautifully bogus media-star Welsh writer whose return from London sets the plot in motion) sprang to life so vividly in John Stride's fantastic performance that it seemed strange he hadn't already entered the language as an archetype. Surely here was a comic monster of enormous stature. "You OK, Melvyn? You look a bit shaky." "Give me a minute, I'll be all right. I've just been Weavered by Kingsley Amis." "Head between the knees, man. This is serious."

Interestingly, Davies was once Weavered by Amis, which perhaps explains why he did such a selfless and painstaking job improving Amis's text. In fact, as a way of saying a special thank you he wrote the event into the screenplay: Weaver is signing books for a queue of evident nobodies, and saying expansively modest things such as "No, no, you are too kind. This is mere hackwork! But hackwork from the heart. I like to think", when along comes a nerdish fellow with an intense expression.

"I'm a great fan of yours," says the nerd, "but I don't think this book quite captured the lyrical freshness of *Mumbles Bay*." There is a short pause, during which Weaver gives him a smile of supreme danger-signal condescension. "Why, thank you very much," he says, breaking into a friendly laugh. "And what on earth makes you think I'm interested in the opinion of young *shags* like you? Bugger off now, and a very good afternoon to you."

Davies told this story on BBC2's *The Late Show* a couple of weeks ago and said he included the scene because writing is turning one's worst moments into money. But this would imply that the audience sympathises with the nerd's embarrassment, which we did not. Weaver was so spectacularly awful that, as the hang-dog old devil Peter said: "One's spirits do tend to lift a bit at the sight of the old bugger."

Weaver is energetic and funny, and easily moved to tears. He believes his own publicity. He is an up-front fraud, a hail-fellow friend who enjoys a boozy lunch with an old mate, agrees to meet him later, and with a nudge and a wink struts off cheerfully to render the old mate a cuckold. As the old devils agree after his death (the booze leads to curtains, alas) he is a necessary man, but in some ways quite unnecessary, too.

The irony of Weaver's sudden death, of course, is that he is the only member of the group not oppressed by (or even fleetingly conscious of) thoughts of mortality. He also, ostensibly, has more to live for. The old devils are afflicted by loveless marriage, impotence, alcoholism, cardiac problems, prunes, pub bores; they play needle-match chess tournaments with Death as an everyday occurrence, while Alun is round at their houses thoughtlessly rogering their wives.

As they drive into the pestilential landscape of South Wales for the day, Malcolm (Bernard Hepton) says: "I saw a film called *The Seventh Seal* once, by Ingmar Bergman it was. It was a bit like this." "Four old farts in a Morris Marina, you mean?" Death doesn't bother to checkmate Weaver; there is nothing metaphysical about his seizure and collapse. In his case, death is just nature's way of telling him to slow down.

The casting of *The Old Devils* was perfect. Hepton's poor old Malcolm, dreaming over his medieval Welsh poetry while his grim, brainy, disappointed wife Gwen (Anna Cropper) sat opposite him at the breakfast table wordlessly chain-smoking with the preoccupied air of someone planning the perfect revenge killing. "Mind if I take first Crack at the Bathroom?" she would say pointedly, breaking out of her reverie. And each time she said it, she tweaked up the word "crack" by a wicked extra notch.

Watching other drama after *The Old Devils*, the faces looked bland and young and unlived-in. Tristram Powell's direction placed enormous emphasis on faces, and it paid off. James Grout, as the defeated Peter, was magnificent — pained, resigned, ridiculous. "I don't think you appreciate just how unattractive you've become," his joyless wife Muriel (Anne Stallybrass) said. "You emanate hopelessness and resentment and boredom and death." Unacquainted with the notion of the pulled punch, is Muriel.

One of the greatest moments came from Charlie (Ray Smith, who died after filming was completed). Seemingly the most cynical of them all, Charlie is having his usual liquid lunch and mulling over old times with Alun's wife Rhiannon (Sheila Allen). "I've just remembered," she says brightly, "you weren't just the cleverest, you were the nicest, too." He looks at her over the rim of his glass and agrees sadly: "I was always a nice boy."

A nice boy. It made everything else fall into place. The flash-backs to 40 years before; Alun insisting that he feels "So strong! So young! So much to give!"; Peter's look of childlike surprise when the chance of happiness with Rhiannon is finally offered to him. It reminded me of something Tony Hancock is supposed to have said: that the trouble is you're not allowed to grow old in the world any more.

Not noted for his great wisdom or self-knowledge, Hancock, but he was right on this one. "We are all moth-eaten kids, really."

Welsh rare bits: the five old devils (from left) Howell Evans, Bernard Hepton, the late Ray Smith, John Stride and James Grout

PREVIEW

● **138th Oxford v Cambridge University Boat Race**
(today, BBC1, 2.35pm)
There are certain things that never change about Boat Race day. First, it always rains. Second, whichever team wins it is still a disappointment. Watching the event from home, you do not get wet and you can see the whole race, with helicopter shots of indistinct grey centipedes slithering through grey indistinct water. On the other hand, the problem about the boat race from the television point of view is that the drama is very limited, unless someone sinks. Basically, one of the eights (usually Oxford) establishes an early lead, and then . . . er, that's it.

● **Horizon: Before Babel**
(Monday, BBC2, 8.10pm)
The idea is this: there are 5,000 languages in the modern world, but possibly they all derive from a great Ur-language spoken by the small group of humans who were the daddies of us all. Linguists and archaeologists contend that by analysing the common features in all our languages there is a chance we may establish the contents of the very first dictionary. *Horizon* reports on the research, and tells us the amazing news that 20 words have emerged as the possible First Words on Earth. Let's hope they have programmed their computers properly, otherwise "Big", "Mac" and "Fries" might be on the list.

● **Man's Best Friends**
(Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm)
This series is a repeat, but worth noting. Desmond Morris shows how domestic pets are really wild animals (in all but identity collar and Whiskas supply), and asks questions such as: Why do cats like being stroked? Why do they groom themselves so much? Morris says that the cat's behaviour betrays its kinship with the tiger, which is all right so far as it goes, but doesn't help with other questions. Why do cats happily woof down Rabbit Whiskas one day and sneer at it the next? And why do they enjoy watching snooker on the telly? Nothing atavistic there, surely.

● **Short Stories: Old Pros' Paradise**
(Friday, Channel 4, 8.30pm)
Brinsworth House is a retirement home for showpeople in Twickenham, and an ideal setting for a plot by Agatha Christie: as you drive past you expect to hear a spirited chorus of "There's no business like show business" and a shot ringing out backstage. Surely the ex-Tiller girls, contortionists, singers and magicians will stop at nothing to get top billing? Laurie Wiseman's half-hour film takes a calmer view, showing the build-up to a Christmas party and the old stagers reminiscing on times past.

L.T.

Love reborn in a warm climate

Four women leading quietly desperate lives find enchantment in a medieval castle in a delicate romantic comedy being screened tomorrow

The story begins with an advertisement in *The Times*: "To those who appreciate wisteria and sunshine. Small medieval Italian castle on the shores of the Mediterranean to be let furnished for the month of April. Necessary servants remain. Box 1000, *The Times*."

So Lottie Wilkins, on a rainy London day, decides to find three other women to join her in escaping from the endless greyness for some sybaritic sunshine, leaving husbands behind. That, in brief, is the story of Elizabeth von Arnim's novel *The Enchanted April*, published in 1922. Last year it was filmed by the BBC, chosen to open the London Film Festival, and will be seen tomorrow night as one of BBC2's outstanding *Screen Two* series at 10pm.

Ann Scott, the producer, fell in love with the novel when she read it in Virago Modern Classics, repository of so much almost-forgotten good writing. It is the happiest of von Arnim's works, for she had a keen, cool, acerbic wit.

Two of the women (played by Josie Lawrence and Miranda Richardson) have lacklustre marriages to unprepossessing husbands: one a pompous, stuffy solicitor (Alfred Molina), the other a racy writer of pulp non-fiction (Jim Broadbent). They advertise for two companions and gain a tiresome old lady, Mrs Fisher (Joan Plowright), who cannot forget that she once knew Tennyson and Carlyle, and a Zuleika Dobson-like society beauty, Lady Caroline Dester (Polly Walker), who is sick of being adored by every man she meets.

Ms Scott and her director Mike Newell — lately associated with the contentious Labour party film about Jennifer's ear, but at that time best known for such films as *Dance with a Stranger* — set about finding the right locations: the gloomy London houses from which the ladies long to get away, and the small medieval castello in Italy where the story reaches its euphoric denouement.

And so it came about, by chance, that my own drawing room was decided upon for the saintly Mrs Arbuthnot's. (Some neighbours were approached, and having said no, suggested our house instead.) So ours is the room seen fleetingly in an early scene where Miranda Richardson sits placidly sewing in gas-lit, brocade-hung gloom when her tipsy husband rolls home from a party at Lady Caroline's Mayfair salon.

The day they came to shoot was a freezing cold Saturday last spring: it started to hail, to add verisimilitude. The following week, the entire crew were to depart for sun-drenched Portofino, where they had the perfect locale for the enchanted castle.

It was the very villa where Elizabeth von Arnim had once taken a holiday and had been inspired to write the novel. By chance, it was empty and available, though almost inaccessible at the top of a steep rocky cliff above Portofino, unreachable by car: a headache for a crew with cameras and props. But the quiet rooms and exotic, scented gardens were entirely as they had been when von Arnim so radiantly described them, with arum lilies and wisteria, vines and fig trees, and olive groves in the terraced descent to the sea.

It is a slender story ("the lightest of omelettes" said the critic Terence de Vere White in his Virago introduction), with less substance than *A Room with a View*, but it touches hearts, enveloping the characters in the "divine infection" of the magically atmospheric beauty of the garden, changing their lives and rekindling old love.

Those who want a full explanation of how this comes about, with all von Arnim's irony and insight, must read the Virago paperback (£5.99) — and, be warned, it is the sort of book people buy in quantity to give to friends.

Peter Barnes's screenplay is necessarily economical, and his only embellishment is to make the castello's owner (Michael Kitchen) short-sighted: but the essence is not lost, and the structure is as uncluttered as a Noël Coward drawing room comedy. Newell manages to keep a rein on sentiment, for von Arnim was very far from being a sentimental writer.

Four go to Italy: clockwise from top, Miranda Richardson, Josie Lawrence, Polly Walker and Joan Plowright in *Enchanted April*

I am grateful to *The Enchanted April*. It made me read other von Arnim novels, all available from Virago. Among them is her own favourite work, the much less cheering *Vera*, which is another film Ms Scott is hoping to produce. *Vera*'s main character is one of the great monsters of fiction, a man named Wemyss, supposedly based on von Arnim's second husband, Earl Russell, brother of Bertrand.

Elizabeth von Arnim was born in Australia, a cousin of Katherine Mansfield. Her first marriage, to a German count (von Arnim), produced four daughters and a son; but he died, and her marriage to Russell hardly lasted a year before she ran away to America. She also had an affair with H.G. Wells, who found her shrewd and witty, but dropped her for Rebecca West.

Ms Scott, who sees the author as a 20th-century Jane Austen, "wise, witty, and completely contemporary", tells me *Enchanted April* is about to be released in cinemas in the United States where — despite the shower of awards lavished on *The Silence of the Lambs* — there is apparently a new thirst for family films.

This one is exactly the kind nostalgia elders love, and any child could be allowed (in the Easter hols) to stay up to watch. There are no nasty Mary Wesley shocks lurking within; it's all flowers that bloom in the spring, tra-la.

VALERIE GROVE

Is there anybody there?

A new BBC1 series looks at children's imaginary friends

Pelly Pig lives in a crack in the wall, Scott helps with maths problems, Mr Green tells jokes and his daughter shares midnight feasts; Jessica can be as small as a mouse or as big as a giant and flies around the room, and Gemma, who lives in the mirror in the bathroom, just talks.

All appear in *You've Got a Friend*, the first in a new series of the award-winning BBC1 children's documentary series, *The Lowdown* (Tuesday, 5.10pm).

When setting out to make this film about children's imaginary friends, Ken Howard had wondered whether, in this age of video games, they would still find the creative impetus within themselves to sustain such feats of the imagination, but the response from the children was overwhelming.

What is perhaps more remarkable is that the children he interviewed were able to talk so frankly and with such enjoyment about their invisible companions when, as some of them observed, they do not always choose to discuss them with their schoolfriends or families.

The philosophy behind all five series of *The Lowdown*, producer Eric Rowan says, has been to let children present issues in their own terms. But the sensitivity of Howard's gentle probing does not alone explain the confidence and pleasure with which these children describe their inner lives. Nor is it due entirely to the fact that they were relieved to meet one another and discover that they were not alone in having such relationships.

One cannot help but feel that the confidence possessed by these children stems entirely from the "friends" themselves. "She's very pretty," little Tannice Pendegras confides about Jessica. Karen Blong says that Gemma, who talks to her from the bathroom mirror, "is nicer than me. She tells me the right things to do." Ruby Musgrove describes Scott, a cartoon character, as an older brother, "the perfect person, always happy, never ill, just the sort of person I'd like to be".

Some of the children admit to loneliness or bullying, but in times of uncertainty or misery, these friends have been there to see them through. "He's like a guardian angel," says Kirk Patten.

The programme includes scenes from Alan Ayckbourn's new play, *Invisible Friends*, which portrays Lucy, her imaginary friend Zara, and Lucy's parents' exasperation with the extra plate that has to be set for Zara. No doubt some "friends" tyrannise parents, who may well be driven to have them run over by an imaginary bus.

Dr Manek Bharucha, the child psychiatrist who acted as consultant to the programme, advises parents to encourage their child to talk about an imaginary friend, rather than ban it or pretend it doesn't exist. "Maybe this is something that needs to be there," he says, "and it would be damaging to stop it." But, he adds, "if it gets to an obsessive level, then there's a problem that needs attention".

And given that Ayckbourn and presumably A.A. Milne, who wrote the poem *Binker* — "Binker is the reason why I never feel alone" — both had imaginary friends, perhaps they pre-empt the invention of future fictional characters. Certainly among the older children, there appears to be no anxiety about losing these friends as they grow up and find that they can solve problems by themselves.

Meanwhile, through the agency of their "friends", they are able to deal with worrying emotions such as fear or loneliness, which must be healthier than denying or repressing their anxieties.

If the wish is there, when faced with bullying, to be able to turn into a lion who can scare the bullies away, the child endows not himself but his "friend" with these reassuring but extraordinary qualities.

The intriguing question, of course, is how far children who have such abiding imaginary friends *know* that these brave, strong, wise companions are part of themselves? Do they admit, deep down, that it is they themselves who inspire the confidence for which they are so grateful?

BELLE GREY

Seeing things? Tannice's little "friend" flies around the room

GUILTY SECRETS: MARTIN JARVIS

"I love watching Jeremy Beadle's *You've Been Framed*. I've always been interested in practical joking and used to watch *Candid Camera*. I'm addicted to *You've Been Framed* because it's funny — I'm waiting for the time when someone loses their rag completely. It's also extraordinary how much actors can learn from watching how people behave in a situation they believe is real. That's what we do on stage — try not to look as though we know what's going to happen next."

Martin Jarvis is appearing in *Leo in Love* at the Richmond Theatre, Surrey.

BARBICAN HALL

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Seat prices available at time of going to press

Ton't 4 April 6.30pm	**BACH: ST MATTHEW PASSION** Barbican Spring Choral Series City of London Sinfonia, Richard Hickox cond., soloists Andrew King, Stephen Roberts, Catherine Pierard, Michael Chance, Mark Tucker, Stephen Varcoe, Tallis Chamber Choir. Sung in German £20 £17.50 £13 £10 £7.50 *Barbican Centre in assoc with the City of London Sinfonia*
Tomor 5 April 3.00pm	**SPRING INTO MUSIC** Sunday Afternoon Classics with the London Mozart Players, Howard Shelley cond/piano, Sarah Greene narrator. Rossini: Ov *Thieving Magpie* Schubert: *Symphony No 8 Unfinished* (1st movement) Mendelssohn: Piano Concerto No 1 Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on Greensleeves Britten: Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra £6 £8 £11 £14 £16 Children under 16 half price Barbican Centre
Tomor 5 April 7.30pm	**LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Kent Nagano cond., Dmitri Alexeev piano, Paul Silverthorne viola. Berio: Sequenza VI for viola Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 5 *Emperor* Prokofiev: Symphony No 6 £5.50 £9 £12.50 £15 £19.50 £28 Please note change of soloist *LSO Ltd* *SPONSORED BY NIKON UK LIMITED*
Mon 6 April 7.45pm	**ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** Vernon Handley cond., Raphael Wallfisch cello Bantock: Ov. *The Pierrot of the Minute* Delius. The Walk to the Paradise Garden Finzi: Cello Concerto Vaughan Williams: Symphony No.2 *London* £20 £16 £12 £8 £6 *NEC INTERNATIONAL SERIES*
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Sun 12 April 4.00pm	**VIKTORIA MULLOVA** violin **BRUNO CANINO** piano. Barbican Celebrity Recital Series. Brahms: Sonata No 2 in A, Op 100 Beethoven: Sonata in F, Op 24, Spring Prokofiev Sonata No 1 in F minor, Op 80 £12 £8 £5 *Barbican Centre*
Tue 14 April 7.45pm	**STUTTGART PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** Carlos Kalmar cond. Andreas Bach piano. Brahms: Variations on a theme by Haydn Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 1 Symphony No 5 £22 £18 £15 £10 £6 *IMG Artists (Europe)*
Wed 15 April 7.45pm	**ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** Christoph Eschenbach piano/dir William Bennett flute, Neil Black oboe Thea King clarinet, Robin O'Neill bassoon, Frank Lloyd horn. Mozart: Quintet for piano and wind, K452; Piano Concerto No 27, K595 Haydn: Londonzer for flute and oboe, Symphony No 92 in G *Oxford* £18 £15 £12 £9 £6 £4 *English Chamber Orchestra and Music Society*
Thurs 16 April 7.45pm	**BACH: ST JOHN PASSION** Barbican Spring Choral Series City of London Choir, Milton Keynes Chamber Orchestra. Hilary Davan Wetton cond. Wynford Evans, Graham Titus, Juliet Booth, Margaret McDonald, John Noble soloists. Sung in English £15 £11.50 £8 £5 *City of London Choir*
Good Fri 17 April 7.45pm	**MOZART: REQUIEM**, Barbican Spring Choral Series. City of London Sinfonia, James Judd cond., Andrew Marriner clarinet Birgit Fandrey, Penelope Walker, Philip Salmon, Mark Glanville soloists. Tallis Chamber Choir. Prog. also inc Mozart: Ov. *The Magic Flute* Clarinet Concerto in A, K622 £20 £17.50 £13 £10 £7.50 *Barbican Centre*

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Overture **THE FORCE OF DESTINY** One fine day, Flower Duet, Humming Chorus **MADAM BUTTERFLY**, Per me giunto **DON CARLOS** Celeste Aida, Judgement scene **AIDA** La donna e mobile, Quartet **RIGOLETTO** Vissi d'arte, E lucevan le stelle, Te Deum **TOSCA**, Pieta rispetto **MACBETH** Sleepwalking Scene, Miserere **IL TROVATORE**, Che gelida manina **LA BOHEME** Chorus of Hebrew Slaves, Finale Act 2 **NABUCCO** Intermezzo **MANON LESCAUT** Final Scene **TURANDOT**

Grand March AIDA Nessun dorma TURANDOT

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Sat 4 April 7.30	**THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC** Diaghilev Series. Kurt Masur (cond) Kathleen Battle (sop) Stravinsky *Divertimento on The Fairy's Kiss*; Duparc Orchestral Songs; Strauss Orchestral Songs Prokofiev Scythian Suite £15 £11 £7 (ONLY) *LPEnts*
Sun 5 April 11.00	**THE BACH CHOIR** English Chamber Orchestra, Sir David Willcocks (cond) Robert Tear Willard White Margaret Marshall Margaret Cable, Neil Mackie Stephen Roberts Bach St Matthew Passion (English). RETURNS ONLY *Bach Choir*
Sun 5 April 7.30	***BAROQUE MASTERPIECES*** Mozart Festival Orchestra, Philip Simms (cond) Handel Royal Fireworks Music; Pachelbel Canon; Vivaldi Conc RV 537, Mozart Pno Conc K 488 Sym No 40, Albinoni Adagio £21 £19 £17 £15 £11.50 £8.50 £6.50 *R Gubbay*
Mon 6 Tue 7 April 7.30	**THE PHILHARMONIA** Yevgeny Svetlanov (conductor) Tchaikovsky Symphony No.2 (Little Russian) Debussy L'Après-midi d'un faune; La Mer £35 £30, £25, £17, £10, £5 *Philharmonia Ltd*
Thu 9 April 7.30	**THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC** Diaghilev Series. Zubin Mehta (conductor) Stravinsky Pulcinella; Mozart Eine kleine Nachtmusik Rimsky-Korsakov *Scheherazade* £19 £15 £11 £7 (ONLY) *London Philharmonic Ents Ltd*
Fri 10 April 7.30	**CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** The London Int'l Orchestral Season. Daniel Barenboim (cond/pno) Beethoven Ov *Leonora No 3* Mozart Pno Conc K 453 Strauss Ein Heldenleben £15, £10 (ONLY) *Ingpen & Williams Ltd/SBC*
Sat 11 April 7.30	**CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** The London Int'l Orchestral Season. Daniel Barenboim (cond) Corigliano Sym No 1 (UK prem) Wagner Orchestral excerpts from Götterdämmerung £40 £30, £20, £15, £10, £5 *Ingpen & Williams Ltd/SBC*

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Sat 4 April 7.45	**JACQUELINE DU PRE MEMORIAL FUND CONCERT** Kensington Sinfonietta, Vasari Singers R Keable J Backhouse (conds) T Hugh (cllo) inc Stravinsky Sym of Psalms, Shostakovich Cello Conc No 1 Poulenc Gloria £9 £8 £7 £5 *Kensington Sinf*
Sun 5 April 3.00	**PIOTR ANDERSZEWSKI** International Piano Series. Bach Partita No 6 BWV830 Beethoven 11 Bagatelles Op 119, Sonata No 31 Op 110 £10, £8, £6.50 £5 *Harold Holt Ltd/SBC*
Sun 5 April 7.45	**ENDELLION STRING QUARTET, IMOGEN COOPER** (piano) Beethoven String Quartet in F, Op 59 No 1 (Razumovsky) Brahms Piano Quintet in F minor Op 34 £12.50 £10 £7.50, £5 *Endellion Str Qtet/Hazard Chase Ltd*
Mon 6 April 7.45	**JOAN RODGERS** (soprano) **ROGER VIGNOLES** (piano) Songs inc Mozart Abendempfindung Brahms Mädchenlied Poulenc Fiançailles pour Rire, Prokofiev 5 Poems of Anna Akhmatova, Strauss Drei Liebeslieder £20 £15, £10, £5 *AMI Ltd/SBC*
Tue 7 April 7.45	**LONDON SINFONIETTA** Towards the Millenium. Oliver Knussen (cond) Prokofiev Sym No 1, Webern 5 Pieces Op 10, Schoenberg Herzgewächse 8 works by Stravinsky, Ives & Falla. £15, £12, £9, £6 (ONLY) *Sinfonietta Productions Ltd*
Wed 8 Thu 9 April 2.00 7.45	**DONATELLA FLICK CONDUCTING COMPETITION** Finalists: Andrew Dunscombe, Ian Hughes, Graham Jackson, Timothy Lole, Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra; Jill Gomez (soprano) Works by Bartok, Sibelius, Rimsky-Korsakov Tchaikovsky, Elgar & concert arias by Mozart. The result will be announced at the end of the performance on 9 April. Rehearsals 2.00 £4 Performances 7.45 £9.50, £7, £4 1 day pass £8, 2 day pass £12 *Royal Philharmonic Society*
Fri 10 Sun 12 April 7.45	**ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT** Mark Elder (cond) Anna Caterina Antonacci Judith Forst, Keith Lewis, Bruce Ford, Jacek Laszczkowski Rossini Ermione (UK prem) £20, £15, £10 (ONLY) *OAE*

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MOZART Piano Concerto in G, K453

STRAUSS Ein Heldenleben

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CORIGLIANO Symphony No.1 (British. prem.)

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7 Apr - **BRODSKY STRING QUARTET** Schubert Qtet in C D46; **Shostakovich** Qtet No 1 Op 49

14 Apr - **PAUL McCANN** baritone, **SALLY HARRISON** sop, **SCOTT MITCHELL** piano. Songs, Arias & Duets by **Tosti, Donizetti, Tchaikovsky, Bellini, Verdi, Satie, Mozart, Bizet & Bernstein**

21 Apr - **ALEXANDER BAILLIE** cello Bach Suite No 3 in C; Kodaly Sonata Op 8

28 Apr - **IMOGEN COOPER** piano Schubert 16 German Dance, D783; Schoenberg 6 Little pieces Op 19; Smetana Polkas; Bartok 14 Bagatelles Op 6

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CONCERTS IN HOLY WEEK

WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL at 7.30 pm

CANTORES AD VINCULA

Director: John Williams

Lassus Stabat Mater; Händl Passio Domini nostri Jesu Christi secundum Joannem & motets by **Byrd, Gabrieli, de Peñalosa & Tallis**

GOOD FRIDAY 17 APRIL at 7.30 pm

DELME STRING QUARTET

Haydn *The Seven Last Words on the Cross*

Admission by programme at the door £6

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An Introduction to Opera

MOZART Overture, Non Più Andrai (*Marriage of Figaro*); The Priests Chorus (*The Magic Flute*); Il mio tesoro, La ci Darem (*Don Giovanni*); **BIZET** Duet (*The Pearl Fishers*), Toreador's Song & Habanera (*Carmen*) **PUCCINI** One Fine Day (*Madame Butterfly*); Your tiny hand is frozen (*La Bohème*) **VERDI** Brindisi (*La Traviata*); Caro Nome & Questa o Quella (*Rigoletto*); Grand March (*Aida*)

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PAUL WYNNE GRIFFITHS conductor

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SUNDAY 3 MAY at 7.30 p.m.

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Rossini Overture, William Tell; **Vaughan Williams** Fantasia on a theme of Greensleeves; **Tchaikovsky** Violin Concerto in D; **Bizet** Carmen Suite; **Liszt** Hungarian Rhapsody; Ravel Bolero.

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MOZART.....Eine kleine Nachtmusik

MOZART.....Piano Concerto in C, K467

VIVALDI.....The Four Seasons

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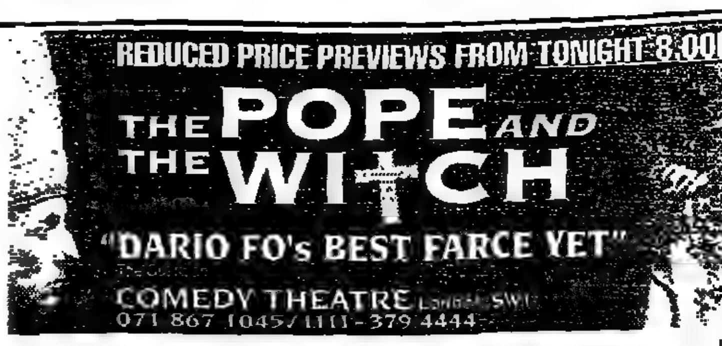

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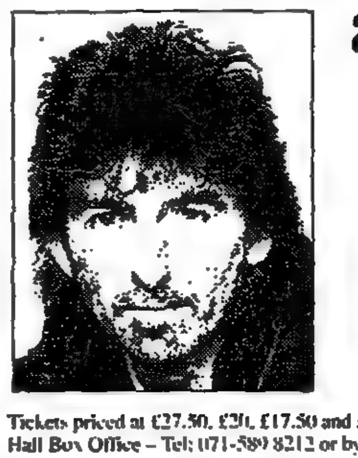

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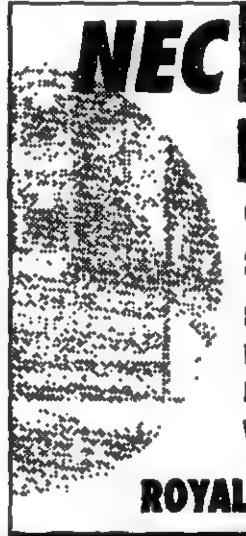

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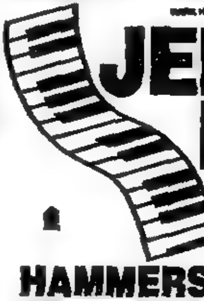

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Starring STEPHANIE LAWRENCE and CARL WAYNE **"ASTONISHING"** S Express **...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval"** D Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

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Mon-Thur 8.00 Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sat 5.00 & 8.30 **ALL SEATS ½ PRICE FRIDAY 5.30 PERF** **3rd SENSATIONAL YEAR OVER 1000 PERFORMANCES NOW BOOKING TO JAN 16 1993**

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A TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES BROTHERS

Directed by David Leland Mon Thu 8.15 Fri & Sat 6.15 & 9

WYNDHAMS (no bkg fees) 071 867 1116 CC 867 1111 071 379 4444/071 497 9977 (24hrs) **NICHOLAS LYNDHURST** **CARMEL McSHARRY**

STRAIGHT AND NARROW

The new comedy **by JIMMIE CHINN** **"Unqualified, unstinting praise... uproariously funny"** Daily Mail **Directed by ALLAN DAVIS** Mon - Sat 8 Mats Wed 3 Sat 5

YOUNG VIC. 071 620 0411 071 379 4444 (24 hrs) Royal Shakespeare Company in **MEASURE FOR MEASURE**, "Trevor Nunn's magnificent new production" Indep Mon Sat 7.15, Thurs/Sat Mat 2.00

Fresh as paint after 1,900 years under the ash

EXHIBITION

John Russell Taylor on a London show of art and artefacts from the Roman city of Pompeii

For 1,700 years after it was buried in volcanic ash by Vesuvius in AD79, Pompeii was held in thrall like Sleeping Beauty. But since the excavators went to work on it, little has stayed static. Even while the exhibition **Rediscovering Pompeii** was on its way to the Accademia Italiana from its last venue in Malmo, an astonishing new discovery was made: archaeologists investigating a new site discovered a house that had evidently just been redecorated when the eruption overwhelmed it, so that all the owner's possessions were stowed away in a single room, and had remained completely undisturbed from that date to this.

Apart from the basic comfort of recognising that, then as now, Sod's Law ruled, such details do bring home the immediacy of the disaster. In fact, this is the most imagination-stirring aspect of the exhibition: the bowl containing singed but still perfectly recognisable olives, figs and barley, just as they were almost two millennia ago, cannot fail to bring that apocalyptic day uncomfortably close. Perhaps this is not the loftiest aesthetic response, but it certainly puts aesthetic responses, when they are called for, into a directly human context.

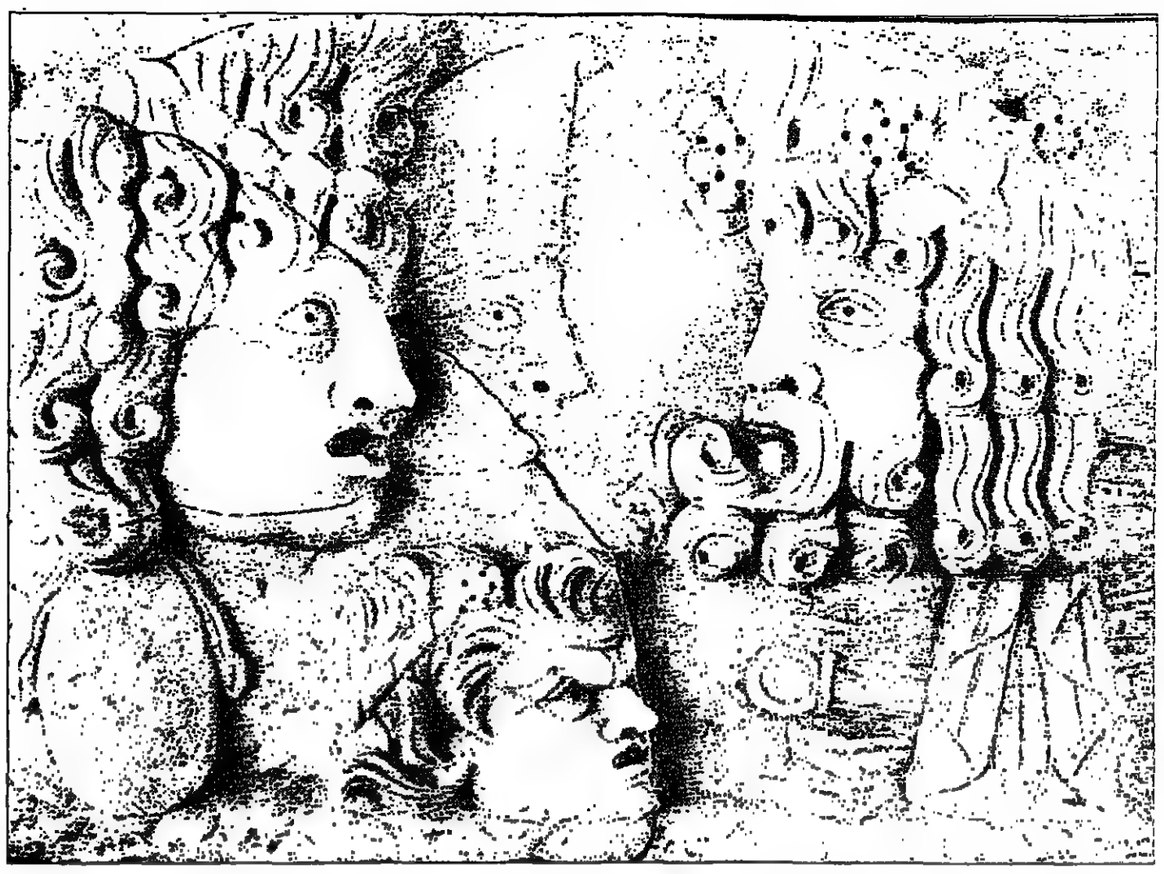
Of course, Pompeii was a middle-class merchant town (unlike the grand and quiet places in the country which make up Herculaneum), so that one does not expect to find the loftiest works of art there. On the other hand, the discoveries made are far from negligible. There are no long-lost masterpieces of ancient sculpture, but still there are delightfully vivid pieces, such as the Fountain with Cupid and a Comic Mask.

In Herculaneum there are even better things to be found, though not necessarily so agreeable, such as the marble groups of dogs attacking a stag or the Drunken Hercules relieving himself. Though these were mostly pieced together from fragments, at least they are complete, all fragments close together, and in no need of the sort of "creative" restoring so popular in the 18th century, when Cavaceppi plied his trade with such success.

If the feeling that we are seeing something as it was originally made — without later intervention and interpretation — counts for a lot with the sculpture, it is even more important with the painted murals and mosaics. What the discovery of Pompeii did, more than anything else, was to restore colour to modern ideas of the ancient world. In the 18th century various shades of terracotta and red were popularly described as "Pompeiian". But even more striking here are the blues and greens scattered through the scenes and patterns which decorated ancient walls.

The show includes a whole painted room, covered with extraordinarily naturalistic pictures of birds and vegetation, to give the effect of a garden indoors. There are also architectural scenes.

Other decorative schemes on show here include a Nymphaeum lined with glass-paste mosaic in finely graded blues and golds, and there is also some fine carved marble furniture, remarkably preserved on a site where even the calcined wood fittings remained in place.

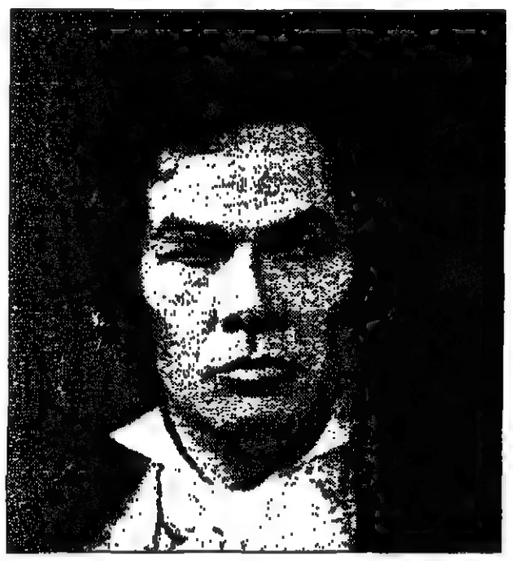


No masterpiece, but delightful: marble reliefs with theatrical masks, from the House of the Gilded Cupids, Pompeii

Naturally a show about Pompeii is going to be mostly about the past. But as the name of IBM among the sponsors suggests, this show is also about how new technology can enhance our knowledge and understanding of the past. An important part in the recent leap forward of Pompeiian studies has been played by the giant computer that IBM provided, together with the funds to run it throughout the special research project. So the exhibition also demonstrates impressively some of the extraordinary ways in which computer projection can assist in the location and reconstruction of ancient buildings, and how data storage can pinpoint every smallest find on site. Clearly history and technology need not be at odds: here they work impeccably, hand in hand.

● Rediscovering Pompeii at the Accademia Italiana, 24 Rutland Gate, London SW7 (071-225 3474). Daily, 10am-6pm (Wed to 8pm), until June 21. Admission £5, concessions £2.50

Wicked ways sound best



Gripping: Samuel Ramey as Councillor Lindorf

OPERA

Les contes d'Hoffmann
Covent Garden

VILLAINY rules in the final Royal Opera revival of Offenbach's *Hoffmann* this season. Samuel Ramey takes an immediate grip of the opera as Councillor Lindorf, the first (and last) of the four men who poison the life of the poet Hoffmann. In white tie and tails he throws down his challenge for the affection of the diva Stella and he is going to win. In the same outfit he looks in at the end of each of the three central acts, to see how his wicked work is progressing.

Ramey's second villain, Coppelius, does not offer as many vocal opportunities, but once into the Venice act his glorious bass-baritone is away. Dappertutto's "Scintille diamant" is resplendently sung. Miracle, the evil physician who persuades the last of Hoffmann's loves to sing herself literally to death, comes straight from Ramey's ample repertoire of operatic devils. He has sung most of them with great success, from Gounod's Mephistopheles to Stravinsky's Nick Shadow, and his Miracle in shining black leather coat is right up there in the top rank of Old Nicks.

When John Schlesinger's staging was new in 1980 four separate singers were cast as Hoffmann's persecutors. Such a decision is impossible when Ramey is around. Not surprisingly he has chosen Offenbach's malevolent quartet for his debut at the Bastille in the new Roman Polanski production of *Hoffmann* opening later this month.

The title role at Covent Garden was to have been sung by Neil Shicoff, a highly experienced Hoffmann. For the opening night performance he was replaced by Patrick Power, who, despite his best efforts, sounded distinctly inexperienced.

Power was made up to look a little like the original E.T.A. Hoffmann: dark curly hair, intense features. But the performance rarely relaxed enough to suggest the impulsive poet, prey to any passing female vision. His tenor lacks the lyrical qualities Offenbach demands and notes that should have bloomed were too often nipped in the bud.

Only in the epilogue, when Hoffmann is alone with his tankard and his quill pen, did the character show through. Abjure women, as his companion Nicklausse (Jean Rigby) says, and stick to your muse and your booze.

The rest of the cast is as it was a month ago: Sumi Jo (mechanically flawless as the doll, Olympia), Anne Howells (moderately seductive as Giulietta), Leontina Vaduva (Violetta-like as Antonia).

Jeffrey Tate has a firm grip on the orchestra, Richard Gregson a less firm one on the staging. The supporting singers need clearer definition and so do neat melodramatic inventions like the disembodied harpist who accompanies Olympia.

JOHN HIGGINS

Audience with the bishop of bounce

POP

Neil Sedaka
Albert Hall

PACKED houses have greeted Neil Sedaka, the 53-year-old singer-songwriter, on his latest tour. At the penultimate show, the Albert Hall on Wednesday, his cheery face, ample figure, black silk suit and purple shirt gave him the air of a bishop on a spree, accentuated by his occasional little dances and even some gleeful pogoing.

His flock, spread across the generations, were well rewarded for their attendance with a set of two dozen of his melody-rich, singalong songs. There was even a bonus in the form of Debussy's *Clair de Lune*, which this one-time Juilliard School student saw off with a flourish and a jocular challenge: "Let's see Barry Manilow try that."

Having written and performed hits for more than 30 years, Sedaka has every right to a swipe at younger and less prodigiously gifted entertainers. Even his earliest songs, such as "Oh Carol", "Happy Birthday Sweet 16" and "Calendar Girl", have proved perennially popular. His uptempo Seventies successes, including "Standing on the Inside", "Love Will Keep Us Together" and "That's Where the Music Takes Me" have an irresistible bounce and snap, while the ballads of the same period, which include "The Hungry Years", "Laughter in the Rain" and "Solitaire", carry his audiences along on waves of collective nostalgia that are almost palpable.

If all this were taken too seriously it would be intolerable, but Sedaka is a man with a sense of humour. During the livelier numbers he stood, shook and pounded at the piano like a Safe Sex version of Jerry Lee Lewis. He ended several songs by punching the air with his fist; he whooped "Rock 'n' roll!".

In "Our Last Song Together", he sang "yesterday is yesterday, the past is dead and gone." He must have had his fingers crossed, although he included four new songs from a forthcoming album on Wednesday. "There's No Getting Over You", "When a Love Affair Is Through", "I'm Blinded By Your Love" and "You Turn Me On" showed no sign of any radical evolution in his style since the Seventies or indeed the late Fifties, but that is no bad thing. He can still stitch a melodic line with the best of them, and there is never any doubt as to the clearly enunciated words.

His lyrics are unambitiously straightforward in their rhymes and vocabulary. The themes of regret for missed opportunities for love, of nostalgia for youth and the rituals of courtship, recur like reassuring brand names at a supermarket. Sedaka sings of sweet or shattered dreams, of rivers running to eternity, of walking hand in hand, and the listening couples edge closer together, hands are clasped and little smiles exchanged in the half-light. Mission accomplished.

TONY PATRICK

Let's not pretend

THEATRE

Manslaughter
BAC, Battersea

AS WE enter we observe a man and a woman standing, apparently asleep, wrapped in a lace-hanging suspended from the ceiling: a bed stood on end, a vertical view of the horizontal. The man twitches restlessly, the woman slumbers calmly. This is an omen of the sexual contrasts to come in 75 minutes of glowering portentousness which trivialise the plight of Sara Thornton, a woman serving a sentence for killing her bullying husband and whose recorded voice ends the play.

Andrew Phillips's design has the incisiveness missing from Robin Brown's writing. A dining table is supported on female legs in fish-net stockings. George's chair sprouts seraphic wings, Laura's is made from a supermarket trolley. The goldfish bowl is placed on a stand shaped like cupped hands bound at the wrist.

George is a writer, Laura works in publishing. This enables them to quote *Women Beware Women* and act out little bits of *Middlemarch*. Given these domestic pursuits, it is not surprising that their marriage has problems. The play, evolved in workshops, is so busy depicting George as a wimp, desperate for love and striving for communication, that it neglects to give any character to hatchet-faced Laura: none, at least, emerges from Jill Dowse's self-conscious and unvarying glumness. Jeremy Peters, an actor with good work behind him, perhaps unintentionally steals our sympathy.

After 45 minutes, language and sentiments hit a vein of pretentiousness as rich as ripe Stilton, and the dialogue becomes audaciously inconsequential. "Words, words, words!" he cries, to which she replies, "Where does your mother come into all this?" Where indeed?

"Let's not talk about me — let's not talk about you, either" caused my heart to leap at the prospect of conclusion. But George swigs wine from the bottle and shrieks: "I love me!" Laura puts on a top hat and raises an umbrella flanked with lace curtains. George exclaims: "He is he — she is her," wraps his face in clingfilm and expires. Laura goes back to bed, still vertical. The first night's proceeds went to Justice For Women. I await a benefit in aid of Anaesthetics for Theatre Critics.

MARTIN HOYLE

Snap, crackle but all too pop

THEATRE

The Winter's Tale
Lyric, Hammersmith

Cold comfort: Kathryn Hunter and friends in *The Winter's Tale*

FIRST there is the crash and whoop of soaring fireworks, then the crash and whoop of partying courtiers. They frantically whirl round the stage playing blind man's buff, bumping into each other but avoiding the Christmas tree, the red balloons and, at least until Polixenes offers a glass to a spectator, the champagne picnic. One gentlewoman affects a golden trouser suit and Dame Edna specs, another is dressed for a flamenco contest, and little Prince Mamillius, obviously up too late, wears pyjamas and what looks like a Ruritanian postman's cap.

Yes, the fashionable Theatre de Complicité is back in town, having shipped late Shakespeare to Sydney and Inverness, Hong Kong and downtown Leicester. In keeping with the company's name, if not with the nationality of most of its members, there is no English understatement here. The energy, commitment, theatricality, and inventiveness are as strong as ever; clarity, sense, and willingness to ensure that bravura display remains subservient to plot and character, seem less abundant.

Take that opening party. Is Dhobi Oparei's Polixenes, a cool dude in a cravat and a chic grey coat, trying to suggest a sensuality that justifies King Leontes' suspicions of him? Is he making something awfully close to a pass at Queen Hermione? Is there something suspect in the way he fingers Leontes himself, and could Leontes' madness be explained as unacknowledged homosexuality on a destructive spree? Or is the Theatre de Complicité simply doing its extravagant, overbusy thing?

Certainly, Annabel Arden's production is never still. Actors abruptly shift from relative realism to stylised slow motion. They nudge the audience, clamber into the stalls, and ("that's not Shakespeare") elaborate bits of text, adding references to Rice Krispies or audio cassettes. Paulina cannot just ask to visit Hermione in prison: her request has to be keyed into a computer. That famous stage direction "exit, pursued by a bear" is amended to read "scuttles, chased by a fanged man in orange dungarees". The shepherds come complete with actors jokily pretending to be sheep or dogs.

The second half is the scattier and, especially at the sheep-shearing festival, the more incoherent. When the company's nine performers are changing roles so much, how can those new to the play easily twig that the visitors are Polixines and Camillo in disguise? The clowning is dreadfully witless throughout. Even if the evening's Autolycus were not inexplicably prone to spouting Italian, he would still be the most incomprehensible I have seen.

Yet, especially in the first half, there are pluses. Gabrielle Reidy's Hermione, dressed in a dowdy black overcoat, like a dissident at a show trial, brings power and dignity to her ordeal. Kathryn Hunter's canny yet passionate Paulina justifies this actress's growing reputation. And for better as well as worse, Simon McBurney must be as monstrous a Leontes as the British theatre has yet thrown up. He cuts an unprepossessing figure, with his black suit, slicked-down hair and yellowish cheeks. But this is Mr Pooter turned psychotic, a wizened shrimp become a Gestapo killer. At first the symptoms are slight: a twitch of the mouth, a sort of cawing squawk from the voicebox. But then he is sitting in (significantly) a T-shirt with the imperial German eagle embossed on the front, splashing his sweaty face with bottled water, then leaping up to slap and kick his appalled underlings. "Bastard!" he screeches at the new-born Perdita: and a hundred referee-hating football hooligans could not match his bug-eyed ferocity.

It is remarkable, and yet, like much of the production, strangely external. This company tends to show emotion rather than inhabit it. It sometimes prefers physical ado to exploring the meaning and feeling embodied in the words. It is uninterested in finding the text below the text. Does it really trust Shakespeare — and should Shakespeare trust it?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Qualified rapture

CONCERT

LPO/Masur
Festival Hall

INTENDED for a jazz band but laid out like a classical concerto, Gershwin's hybrid *Rhapsody in Blue* presents a formidable challenge in performance. Popular as the piece is, especially in "easy listening" contexts, it strikes a distinctly uneasy note in the context of a symphony concert.

This has nothing to do with the mixing of "popular" and "serious" items in a programme. Rather it is a product of *Rhapsody in Blue*'s problematic status as a Tinseltown confection in a Lisztian wrapping.

Cécile Ousset, in the solo piano part, gave an impressive display of Lisztian pyrotechnics, but never achieved the jazzy lilt that Leonard Bernstein, for example, used to catch to perfection. Under Kurt Masur's strict direction, the London Philharmonic sounded similarly uncomfortable. Despite some first-rate, idiomatic solos on trumpet and trombone, and a superb opening glissando from the clarinet of Michael Whight, the players in ensemble never persuaded that they were anything but a symphony orchestra for once allowed to let its hair down.

Fortunately, a surprisingly passionate account of Hindemith's *Concert Music for Brass and Strings* and a masterly Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony from Masur more than made amends. So cogent was Masur's unfolding of the Tchaikovsky that he would surely have convinced even the irredeemably self-doubting composer that the work was structurally sound.

He prepared with great care for each major statement — such as the ravishing off-beat second subject of the first movement — and then lovingly shaped it. This ensured that nothing seemed perfunctory or unrelated to the whole.

Then there was the way he folded accompanying instruments into the texture underneath those carrying the melodies. It was done with a few scoops of the hand: a far cry from the ostentatious histrionics sometimes seen on the Festival Hall podium.

Not that dynamism was lacking: each climax emerged from a wonderfully controlled sense of momentum. For all that the performance left one drained, I could happily have sat through it all again, if only as an object lesson in conducting Tchaikovsky.

BARRY MILLINGTON

JONATHAN MEADES'S RESTAURANT GUIDE

Marks — up to a maximum of ten — are awarded for cooking and although they are intended to reflect value for money they are not determined by this consideration alone: certain very costly restaurants *are* very good, certain very cheap ones are, too. All prices given are approximate — they are for a three-course meal for two, including modest wine and an aperitif. Dishes are mentioned only as an indication of the repertoire. Never be afraid to complain. Phone first. It is not only discourteous but illegal to dishonour bookings; that goes for restaurants as well as customers. J.M.

CHILD-FRIENDLY

Tall Orders in Soho
7 *2 St Anne's Court, off Dean St, London W1 (071-494 4941)*
Sibling of the gimmicky but excellent outfit in Fulham. The formula is repeated with equal success: smallish and almost unbelievably cheap portions of balanced and delicious dishes served in Chinese steamers. The menu changes every few weeks but among the more constantly recurring dishes are salmon tartare, couscous with roast peppers and harissa, mixed grill of salmon and mullet, pasta with ceps. Good beers, reasonable wines, swift and courteous service. £18-£35. Lunch Sun-Fri and dinner Mon-Sat.

Cam Santana
3 *44 Golborne Road, London W10 (081-968 8764)*
Portuguese café cum restaurant. Dead basic grub, totally unrefined. Feijoada is a bean stew along the lines of God's first try at cassoulet. The grilled squid is good, and so are the amazingly cheap wines. Energetically informal. £32. Lunch and dinner every day.

Bedlington Cafe
3 *24 Fauconberg Road, London W4 (081-994 1965)*
By day a greasy caff, by night a Thai diner. The Thai cooking has some affinities with grease cooking — notably in the deep-fried battered dishes. The "red" and "green" curries are all right, though might be improved if the frozen peas were omitted. Very friendly, very rough and ready. £22 plus. Lunch Mon-Sat, dinner every day.

Brockencote Hall
3 *Chaddesley Corbett nr Kidderminster, Worcs (0562 777876)*
Edwardian hotel set in immature parkland. For a hotel frequented almost exclusively by colleagues it is friendly and by no means stiff. The cooking is inconsistent and the chef's eagerness to combine meat and fish needs to be held in check. £90 dinner, £45 lunch. Lunch Sun-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat.

McCoy's
7 *The Cleveland Tontine, Staddlebridge, Northallerton, N. Yorks (0609 82671)*
Some of Tom McCoy's cooking in this wonderful one-off restaurant competes with the best in Britain. Go for langoustine raviolis, Bresse pigeon with leeks, veal kidney with mustard sauce, raw beef with tapenade, lamb with capsicum tart, foie gras with grapes stewed in madeira, just about any of the sweets. For a grand restaurant — and it is no other kind of restaurant — it is endearingly laid back. The wines are mostly French, mostly good. £65-£70. Tues to Sat dinner.

Ming
6 *35-36 Greek Street, London W1 (071-734 2721/437 0292)*
A decoratively typical suburban Chinese restaurant that has strayed into Soho. The cooking, however, is typical of nothing — it is often original, frequently good. Belly pork is simmered in the Japanese manner with soy and sake, prawns are fried in a batter of fermented bean curd, minced beef is served with coriander and onion-spiked pancakes. £40-£45. Lunch and dinner Mon-Sat.

SCENIC

Westover Hall
4 *Park Lane, Milford on Sea, Lymington, Hants (0590 643044)*
An agreeable oddity: a south coast hotel (the view across the Solent to the Needles is wonderful) which is both efficient and unpretentious. It is more European than it is English. The cooking is, within its limitations, considered and expertly carried off — at least it is so far as fish and soup are concerned. The chef is less of a whizz with meat. Good *petits vins*, modest prices: £32. Lunch and dinner every day.

Morton's
4 *28 Berkeley Square, London W1 (071-499 0363)*
A formerly louche club which has cleaned up its act. The bar is straight out of Manhattan, the dining room is more or less True Brit — and it has a balcony which overlooks the square. This is one of the finest sites in London to lunch in, though it is only open to members. Some of the vaguely Franglais cooking is notable — particularly the fishcakes which must be the best ever. Decent short wine list and notably reasonable prices. £45. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat.

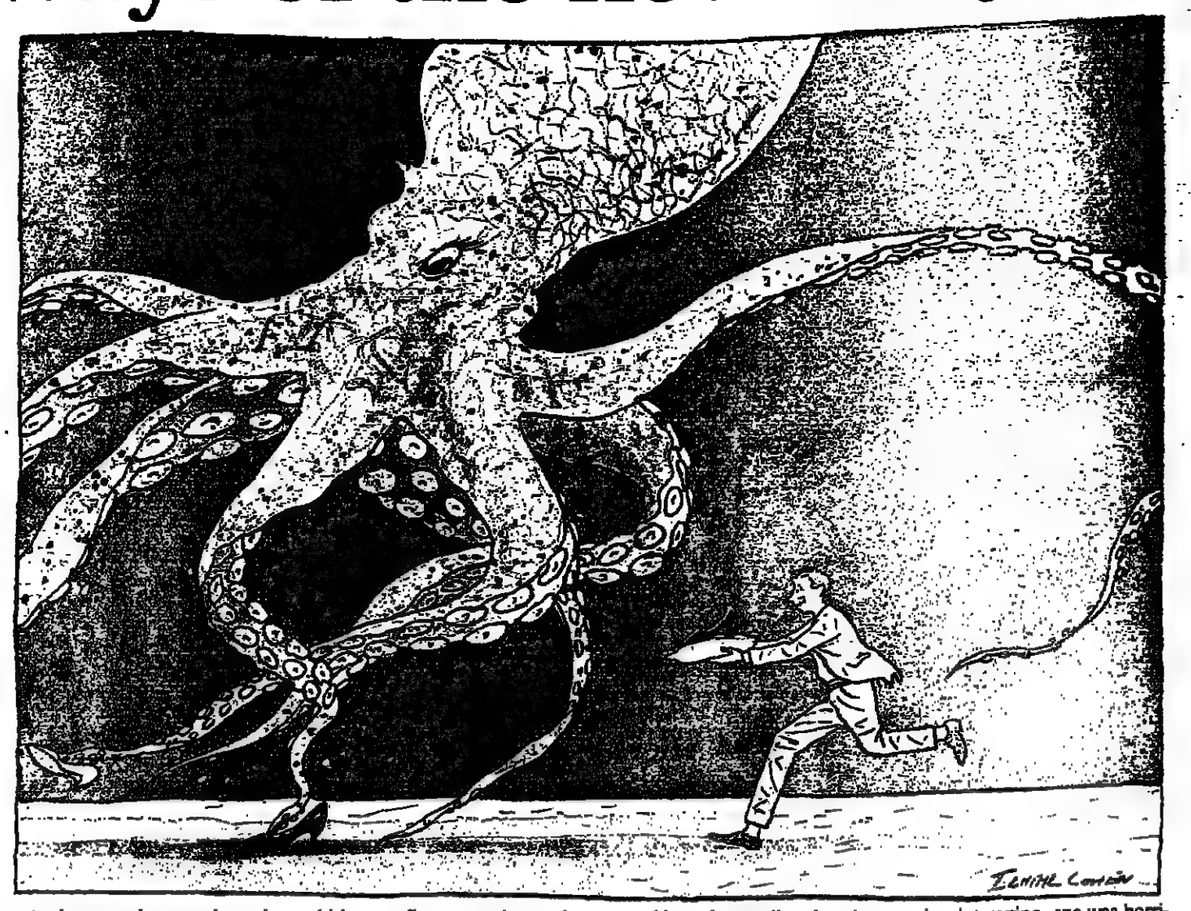
Provence
8 *Silver Street, Hordle, nr Lymington, Hampshire (0590 682219)*
Jean Christophe Novelli is a young French chef who is already very good and appears to be getting better all the time. He does make mistakes. But his ambitious cooking is generally much more than OK. There is a lot of offal on his menu — pig trotter with brains, sweetbreads, tongue etc. But he can also roast and he can also steam. His home-smoked fish is good. His sweets are too. This is not a venue for vegetarians. The lunch menu is a real bargain — about £50 for two, wine and service inclusive. Closed Tuesdays. Open the rest of the week save Sunday dinner. £50 lunch, £85 dinner.

Burgh Island Hotel
2 *Bigbury on Sea, Devon (0548 810514)*
Marvellously shed art deco hotel on an island. Great for lovers of sea and spray. The rather overambitious cooking scores too many own goals. £42 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

The Carved Angel
7 *2 South Embankment, Dartmouth, Devon (0803 832465)*
The cooking is Anglo-French in the best sense with Tuscan and Catalan accents. This eclecticism produces earthy, down-home dishes such as lamb with croquettes of seaweed, battered offal, grilled chèvre with brioche — all ordinary enough sounding but accomplished with flair and taste. The view over the Dart estuary is gorgeous and so are the wines, which are particularly strong in minor Rhônes that yield major pleasure. Tremendous British cheeses. £68. Lunch Tues-Sun. Dinner Tues-Sat.

Byways of the new Italy

Jonathan Meades comes under double assault from Italian herbs and design



The "new" Italian restauration — it's not, actually, that new: the genus is at least five years old now — has thrown up as many cosmetic bungles, bandwagon artistes, as it has more or less genuine articles. Indeed the bunglers may outnumber the genuines. There's an awful lot of culinary tokenism around. The lazy and cynical thinking appears to be that if a menu includes bruschetta/polenta/tiramisu then the restaurant — whose dining room will shriek "design" — can sit back and coin it, no matter how inept the cooking of those items.

At first glance the fish restaurant **L'Altro** looks as though it must belong firmly in the bunglers' camp. And at second glance too, and third . . . Shriek "design"? No, it bellows it, so loud you can hear it two valleys away. Even by the standards of Notting Dale the place is excessive. It is intended to represent a street. There is a street sign to assist victims of the fantasy: "Vicolo L'Altro 1991". Then there is a mass of low relief detailing — rustication, lintels, pedimented windows etc. *Trompe l'oeil* comes by the container-load. There are wrought metal street lamps, wrought metal grilles over windows. There are frescoes which purport to have been "uncovered" — they are incomplete, partly obliterated by "later" façades. The whole is given a spray-on patina of age/distress/wear.

Of course it's nothing like any street that ever existed outside the imagination of a rather camp set designer. The effect — predictably enough — is to persuade the customer that he is dining in a restaurant which has been improvised between stage flats got up by Casa Pupo for a production of *Don Giovanni*. Or maybe that should be *Don Juan*, for the detailing is as much Hispanic as it is Italian. A tape machine fills the room with your favourite arias. In summer it will fill the (real) street outside with them too, for the glass frontage of the restaurant can be made to open in its entirety. Eating on Kensington Park Road's pavement may prove to be less than universally attractive.

The generally overwrought feel of the place extends now and again to the cooking. L'Altro is certainly not to be counted among the ranks of the bogus Italians, and is neither lazy nor cynical. But it does have a tendency to forget what it is that makes proper Italian cooking (as opposed to catering) so appealing. Less, sometimes, really is more. The kitchen here (unlike that at the sister restaurant Cibo, in Olympia) is prone to neglect the cardinal rule of *keep it simple*.

The tendency to elaboration and redundant ingredients is not so far advanced that it cannot be easily checked. And it should be checked, for when they get things right here they're tremendous. Two dishes in particular stand out: octopus stewed in a piquant tomato sauce with fried, garlicked bread; red mullet char-grilled and laid on roast radicchio and roast endive. But there were niggling faults with most of the rest. Not howlers, nothing that detracted from the impression of a basically sound kitchen but, rather, a series of wrong accents, minor misjudgments, slight hiccups.

As I say, overelaboration is the problem. A fish risotto is more like a paella. The rice is exemplary, slightly al dente, suffused with marine essences, properly seasoned; but it is delivered with various crustaceans and molluscs which are really no more than posh garnish — they detract from the main business of the dish.

Two dishes suffered from heavy-handed herbing. Snapper was cooked with fennel and with such an overload of dill that the predominant flavour was that of gripe water. (I have, incidentally, never come across dill in Italy — but there is a word for it, *aneto*, so it is no doubt used somewhere or other. With discretion, one hopes.)

Carpaccio of fish (scallops and their coral, salmon, tuna, maybe turbot) was sliced to transparent thinness, lightly dressed in oil and lemon, and mugged by thyme. Thicker cuts of raw fish, done like sashimi, might have stood up to this burly herb throwing its weight about — but I'm not at all sure.

Courgette flowers are done in the Roman manner with mozzarella and heavy batter. The parenthetical peripheries of bruschetta at one end and little cakes and tarts at the other were good. The wine list is Italian and, quite properly, as strong in reds as in whites. This sort of cooking is better accompanied by the former. The plates are large, bright, heavy, folksy. The service is keen and willing. The waitresses wear skirts of appealing length.

No such attractions at **Chez Liline** in Finsbury Park. The one waiter at this Mauritian fish restaurant was fully trousered. This place has its own fish shop next door. Indian ocean fish the speciality. When you walk into the restaurant you are confronted by a cold cabinet which looks like a murdered aquarium. The dining room is cool blue with conch shaped lights, sea green napery, a disturbingly shiny tiled floor, ranks of tables with black chairs. It looks like a place that is shady in expectation of heat and sun. A squally day in March is probably not the right time to essay it. Fish such as *vacqua, capitain, bourgeois* and *sacré chien* may have fine names. And they are the authentic materials. But they have also been frozen for their airlift and I think it would be perverse to claim that they are in any way superior to the run of North Sea, Channel and Biscay fish we are more familiar with.

I am not being piscatorially xenophobic, just expressing what strikes me as a gastronomic truth. But no doubt Mauritian cooking would not be Mauritian cooking without them. I mean that cod and haddock might not fit the bill. Some dishes are interesting, others are less interesting, one was horrible. This was a so-called bouillabaisse; it too, had been done over by thyme but it made L'Altro's assault with this herb seem puny. This was gloves off. The fish in this dismal stew included salmon, mussels, crab claws, clams etc. There was also something nasty that had the texture of liver. A fricassee of Indian ocean fish came sauced with tomato and chilli. Another dish comprised the same species sauced with ginger and chilli. A pan-oriental influence is much in evidence. Vindaye is a fascinating item comprising cold fish smothered in a very hot paste; it may or may not be a relation of vindaloo. In total contrast was a thing called king prawn chow chow which comprised those prawns in a white sauce of unmitigated and tiresome blandness. The wine list is all right.

L'Altro
6 *210 Kensington Park Road, London, W11 (071-792 1066)*
Lunch Tues to Sun, dinner Mon to Sat. £75 plus.

Chez Liline
2 *101 Stroud Green Road, London N4 (071-263 6550)*
Lunch and dinner Mon to Sat. £50 plus.

KIND FOOD: ALISON JOHNSON

Run, rabbit, run

My old dog, now departed, lived, hoped and dreamed rabbits. Sometimes he would start from deep slumber on a winter's night, make for the door and head off down the road several hundred yards to find the latest casualty — a freshly run-over rabbit.

We never worked out how he knew they were there, and as I then had to paunch and skin his midnight find before I went to bed, I often wished his canine receiving apparatus was less sensitive. Of course the rabbits were for his sole enjoyment: he would have been horrified if anyone else had tried to share them.

But wild rabbit is a much underrated meat. It is lean, white, and healthy, and more flavoursome than most chicken. Yet since myxomatosis was introduced in the 1950s, most people have not fancied it. This has had two unfortunate consequences. Firstly, where rabbits have made a comeback, it is not economic to control them by shooting, as there is little market for the meat; so when they reach plague proportions they are usually done away with by reintroducing the hideous myxomatosis, or by cyanide gassing. Secondly, people who like eating rabbit are on the whole buying cage-bred meat, presumably because it has a more hygienic image.

Rabbit farming is big business on the Continent, and is always being tipped as a growth area in the UK. Do not help it to realise its potential: intensive rearing of rabbits is as nasty as any other form of factory farming. Because of high feeding costs, it can only pay if the doe rabbits are kept in a state of constant reproduction. A breeding female lasts about two years, during which she must produce 14 to 22 litters, averaging eight kits in each. The young rabbits are killed at nine to ten weeks, when they should weigh about 6lb. This high growth rate is achieved by cramming them together at half to three-quarters of a sq ft each so that they don't "waste" food by exercising or playing. This is bad enough, but add to it that the cages they are confined in consist of wire mesh, floor and all, with no bedding, except during the four weeks of weaning. Many, particularly the breeding does, develop sores on their hocks from the pressure of the wire.

Some rabbit farms excel in heartlessness by selling animals to vivisection laboratories: rabbits are particularly popular subjects for the notorious Draize irritancy tests.

Much farmed rabbit comes from very small-scale backyard operations, which you might think would be kinder: but in fact these are often very cramped and insanitary, housed in garages or ramshackle sheds, inadequately protected from weather and predators. I have read of several cases where the RSPCA has been called to deal with just such small rabbit enterprises, when an owner has abandoned animals starving in their hutches.

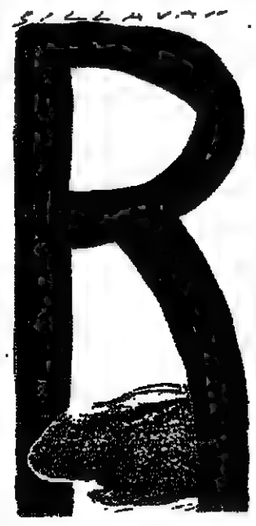
Unlike farmed rabbit, which is available all year round like farmed everything else, wild rabbit is one of those things traditionally eaten when there is an 'R' in the month, outside its main breeding season, which is late April to August. So if you hurry, you may still be able to get it this year from a game-dealer or from market stalls — or from farming neighbours who go shooting.

The familiar French way with rabbit is with mustard. This treatment enlivens bland hutch-bred meat, but wild rabbit, being slightly gamey, responds better to sweeter, more aromatic flavourings which would be cloying with farmed rabbit. This recipe works well with pigeon, too.

Drunken rabbit

serves 4

- 1 rabbit, jointed
- 1 tbsp flour, pinch nutmeg
- 1oz/30g butter
- 2 large onions, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1oz/30g raisins
- 2cm strip lemon rind
- small bayleaf
- 6cm sprig rosemary or 1 tbsp chopped fresh tarragon



- salt, pepper
- wineglass dry Martini

Dredge rabbit in flour, brown lightly in butter with onions. Add remaining ingredients, stir thoroughly, cover, allow to bubble fiercely then immediately remove to a low heat.

Simmer till rabbit is tender — about 45 minutes. Garnish with lemon slices.

The same mixture makes an excellent pie filling. Prepare as above, bone rabbit, cool. Cover with a lid of puff or flaky pastry, well sealed down to the edge of the pie dish, and bake 20-25 minutes in a preheated oven at 200C.

Anyone for chocolate pasta?

STEPHEN MARKESON

A Humberside company is aiming to convert Britons to the delights of fresh — and sweet — pasta dishes

Sweetly surprising: awards finalist Nikki McCann with her chocolate spaghetti dish

Fresh pasta, for generations the staple diet of Italy, is set to become one of the classiest foods on the British menu. A Humberside company is polishing the pasta image with exciting new dishes which make the sloppy British "spag-bol" seem as dull as Monday's bubble and squeak.

Only one in ten Britons even knows the taste of fresh pasta, but all that is changing fast as the Pasta Company uses such delicacies as asparagus, smoked salmon, chicken tikka and even the children's favourite, baked beans and bacon, to stuff pasta parcels.

According to Nikki McCann, aged 28, the company's technical and development director — and the youngest finalist in last week's Businesswoman of the Year awards — new ideas are being created daily to tempt the British palate away from additive-packed convenience foods to fresh pasta. It can be as healthy or as rich as you choose to make it.

The next trend she plans to launch on the British market is sweet pasta. Already she has prototypes of chocolate flavoured pastas, banana, strawberry and pineapple flavours created with rich fresh fruit, to be followed by pasta parcels concealing banana and butterscotch, orange and Cointreau, chocolate and Grand Marnier.

Even the unfilled pastas come in many varieties — verde, spinach, tomato, garlic and herb, cayenne and poppy seed. For a *Rocky Horror Show* style party she once produced black pasta using squid ink. What is just an idea one week can be produced in the factory the next.

Although the company makes £5 million-worth of pasta a year, its production is still based on traditional Italian methods using durum wheat semolina, fresh whole pasteurised eggs, and much the same machinery, although on a larger scale, as that used in Italian homes.

Five years ago Ms McCann, Nigel Stubley whom she married last October, and Michael Norton opened up their pasta plant to fill what they believed was a gap in the market. With the help of enterprise zone grants, hefty mortgages and loans from family and friends, coupled with an indomitable will to succeed, the three have increased their turnover from £4,000 to £4 million a year.

The trio had met in the marketing department of a multinational food company, where they were responsible for sales of rice and mashed potato. "I learnt a lot about technical expertise as well as what the customer wanted," Ms McCann says, "but there was little room for innovation and development in terms of new products. We were all pasta addicts and wanted to make our own mark on the food industry."

The company strives to be one step ahead of the trend, but rather than thrusting Italian recipes on the shelves its aim is to create a British pasta identity.

Its products have no articial colours, flavours or preservatives, and use favourite British ingredients like smoked salmon, asparagus, mature cheddar, mushrooms and garlic to fill classic pasta parcels such as *agnolotti* or *panzerotti* (large ravioli shapes). Other less traditional favourites are spinach and ricotta, along with new chicken tikka.

The company plans to be selling all over Europe by this time next year after the completion of a new £7 million plant largely designed by Ms McCann. But the home market remains the principal challenge. "We still have to convert nine out of ten shoppers who have yet to try fresh pasta," she says.

While you wait for the Pasta Company's packaged version you can create your own sweet pasta puddings by simply adding sugar to plain egg lasagne sheets while they are being boiled, and then serving them layered with fresh fruits, or alternatively serving delicate custard sauces with sweetened tagliatelli in much the same way as cheese sauces are used.

Try Ms McCann's recipe (pictured) for chocolate sauce with sweetened pasta. Make the sweetened pasta by boiling up one litre of water, 60g sugar, half a teaspoon of vanilla essence and one teaspoon of vegetable oil and adding your favourite pasta, stirring occasionally. Drain, but do not rinse excessively.

For the sauce, combine in a non-stick saucepan 90g soft brown sugar, 45g cocoa powder, 140ml milk, half a teaspoon of vanilla essence, and stir over a gentle heat until the sugar has dissolved. Bring to the boil and simmer for two minutes, or a little longer if thicker sauce is required. Pour over the pasta — and serve hot or cold (serves four).

To make a chocolate orange sauce, add the grated zest of an orange to the other ingredients, and serve with orange segments, whipped cream and chocolate flakes.

BRENDA PARRY

● *The Pasta Company, 0652 660060*

Delicate flavour of water

Add flowers to water for a taste sensation, says Frances Bissell, The Times cook

A visit to chef Joel Antunès in his kitchen at Les Saveurs, the new London restaurant, reminded me that this time last year I wrote about salmon in tomato water, a speciality, at that time, of Bouley's in New York.

At Les Saveurs, I immediately recognised the flavour of the bouillon served in a demitasse with two or three homemade tortellini stuffed with goat's cheese. It was clear, intense and aromatic with the sensation that you get when brushing against a tomato plant. The flavours were more piercing and complex than vegetable broth, and more subtle than a meat or poultry stock. M Antunès explained how to achieve the flavour and the clarity without the broth becoming tomato-coloured.

Some greengrocers are selling the rather expensive Roma plum tomatoes from Sicily — but then, this is a very special dish. If you cannot get good, ripe tomatoes with lots of flavour, the recipe will keep until the summer.

Like many chefs, M Antunès is influenced by his experiences in the Far East, Thailand in his case, and his kitchen cupboard is full of unusual spice mixtures and potions: a Chinese caramel made from soy sauce; star anise and palm sugar; orange powder made from dried, powdered tangerine peel; and *tabac de cuisine*, his own secret compound of spices.

This reminded me of some of the other unusual flavours used by chefs, or rather everyday flavours used in unfamiliar contexts: Alan Passard, of Arpège in Paris, once served me a subtle, pale velvety ice cream with an elusive flavour that turned out to be unroasted coffee beans.

At the Mandarin Grill in Hong Kong, among the mango and cassis sorbets, you may be served a soft, leafy green sorbet, which is based on an infusion of Japanese green tea. In the south of France, chefs use liquorice root to flavour sweet and savoury dishes.

From medieval times, flower waters, such as rosewater and orange flower water, have been used in cooking and confectionery, a practice still widespread in the Middle East and north Africa, but hardly followed in Europe.

Inspiration for today's pudding comes not from a modern chef's kitchen but from a delightful collection of recipes published in French in *La Gastronomie au Moyen Age* (Stock, Ff260). The dish is almost identical to those we know today as *pain perdu* and French toast. But how much more refined is this version from Renaissance Italy, with its breath of rosewater and spark of saffron.

All this musing sent me off in search of the bundle of liquorice roots I brought back from Languedoc, which I used as an infusion for steaming chicken breasts and then flavoured the light accompanying sauce with it. I looked for lemon-scented ingredients to use with the firm, pearly cutlets of hake I bought from my fishmonger, and I found lemon grass and lemon thyme. I made a honey and saffron ice cream, which I then discovered is excellent with the fried bread.

But first I tried the tomato water. If you do not want to go to the trouble of making fresh pasta or stuffing with goat's cheese, serve three or four cooked pasta shells in the broth. It would be a pity to cook the pasta in the broth, however; the starch will leach out and spoil the clarity. This broth does not work with dried tomatoes. Even keeping the water no hotter than 80C to begin with, when steeped for any length of time the tomatoes give up their colour into the water.

Tomato broth

(serves 6-8)

2lb/900g Roma or plum tomatoes
olive oil
salt, pepper
1oz/30g granulated sugar
1tbsp thyme or basil leaves
1 cloves garlic, peeled and thinly sliced

Blanch and skin the tomatoes. Quarter 1lb/450g of them, remove the seeds and put these to one side. Place the tomato quarters on a tray brushed with olive oil. Season them lightly and sprinkle with the sugar. Scatter the herbs on top, shredded or chopped as necessary, and place a slice of garlic on each piece of tomato. Cover and stand them in a cool dry place for 24 hours.

Meanwhile, chop the rest of the tomatoes, taking care not to lose any juice, and place in a food processor together with the seeds and pulp taken out of the first batch of tomatoes. Process for two minutes and then transfer the tomatoes to a fine chinois set over a bowl to catch the clear juice that runs from the tomatoes. Leave for 24 hours.

Put the dripped juice in a saucepan and heat to 80C. Add the tomatoes, prepared the night before, the herbs and garlic and infuse for two hours before straining once more. The liquid is now ready to use as a broth.

Baked hake with green sauce

(serves 4)

3 spring onions
8 mint leaves
small bunch of coriander (about 1oz/30g)
parsley sprigs
2-3 sprigs lemon thyme
1 stalk of lemon grass
one green chilli (optional)
2-3 cloves of garlic, peeled and chopped
freshly ground black pepper
pinch of sugar
1tbsp lemon juice
2tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1-2tbsp warm water

Fish

4 hake cutlets, approx 6-7oz/170g-200g
extra virgin olive oil

Trim the spring onions and slice. Put in a food processor or mortar together with the mint leaves, coriander leaves stripped from the stem, parsley and lemon thyme. Remove the root and coarse outer leaves from the lemon grass and slice thinly. Add these to the herbs and also the chilli, garlic and dry seasoning. Pound or process until you have a dark green mass. Blend in the liquid until you have a sauce-like paste.

Brush an oven-proof dish with olive oil and spoon a little sauce over the base. Place the fish on top. Brush with oil and spread the rest of the sauce over the fish.

Bake in a pre-heated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4, for about 12 minutes, depending on the thickness of the fish: small thick cutlets will take longer than thin broad cutlets. The last time I cooked this, I served it with steamed spinach and mashed potatoes. The dish has a slight Basque feel to it and a fruity 1990 Jurançon sec was the perfect accompaniment, as well as to the creamy blue cheese from St Agur, which followed the fish.

DIANA LEADBEATTER

Stuffed chicken breasts steamed with liquorice root

(serves 4)

6in/15cm liquorice root
2 red peppers, sweet
4 free-range chicken breasts
8-12 large basil leaves, plus extra for garnish
6oz/170g ricotta cheese
seasoning

Break the liquorice root into two or three pieces and pour on the boiling water. Halve and de-seed the peppers and grill them until the skin is soft, then peel them. Open out the chicken breasts with a horizontal cut, but leaving them joined down one side. Cover one half with the basil leaves. Spoon the ricotta on top and cover with a piece of red pepper, cut to fit if necessary. Fold the other half chicken breast over the filling and secure around the edges with cocktail sticks. Season the meat lightly. Place in a shallow dish in a steamer or on a steamer rack in a saucepan. Crush two of the pieces of liquorice root and put with the chicken. Steam for about 20 minutes until the chicken is cooked through.

Meanwhile, to make the sauce, put the remaining liquorice root in a saucepan with the chicken stock and infused liquid, and simmer for 15 minutes. Remove the liquorice root and reduce the liquid until you have a small amount of sauce.

When the chicken is cooked, strain the cooking liquid into the saucepan and boil for a minute or two longer. Arrange the chicken breasts on hot dinner plates or serving platter, cut to show the filling, and pour the sauce around it. The sauce can be enriched by adding some cream to the pan as you are reducing it. If you did not like liquorice as a child, this recipe may not appeal to you. Leave out the liquorice then, and use herbs, ginger or citrus zest to flavour the steam and the sauce.

Rosewater and saffron crisps

(serves 4)

6 slices good quality white bread
3 free-range egg yolks
4tbsp milk
3tbsp rosewater
1 scant tbsp clear honey
good pinch of saffron threads
2oz/60g unsalted butter

Remove the crusts from the bread, trim into neat squares and cut into triangles. Beat the eggs and milk with one tablespoon of rosewater and mix in the honey. Strain into a flat dish. Soak the bread in the liquid, turning the pieces over. Pound the saffron threads in a mortar and mix in the rest of the rosewater and a pinch of icing sugar. Heat the butter in a large frying pan and fry the bread until crisp and golden on both sides. Serve sprinkled with the saffron and rosewater liquid and dusted with icing sugar.

FAST FOOD

Sharpen up with tots of balsamico

A PAN-fried fillet steak, cooked pink, removed from the pan, and the pan juices deglazed with a spoonful of balsamic vinegar, takes little more time to cook than it does to write these lines. It is a classic from Modena in Italy, served in most restaurants and homes. There are variations which are worth knowing about to add to your repertoire of dishes that can be cooked and served in the briefest possible time.

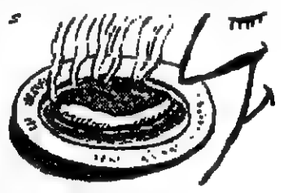
Calves' liver from free-range veal is spoilt with long cooking. The perfect way to cook it is by frying it in olive oil or butter with one or two sage leaves and then use balsamic vinegar to deglaze the pan. Alternatively, split a chicken breast horizontally, pound it flat, and cook it in the same way.

Pork tenderloin is cooked in a similar fashion in Modena. The tenderloin is sliced, the slices flattened and lightly dusted with flour just before frying.

Sliced lambs' kidneys also make a tasty and inexpensive dish when prepared by this method. My current favourite, *filetto al balsamico*, however, is tuna fish.

Our local fishmonger has been buying large pieces of tuna fillet. I buy a couple of small, thick slices, sear them in a very hot, cast-iron pan on both sides, leaving the centre quite raw, and then deglaze the pan with balsamico and pour the hot juices over the fish.

If you do not have balsamic vinegar, some of the fruit vinegars, such as raspberry, can be used in the same way — but perhaps even more sparingly, for they are much sharper than the mellow balsamico. It is better by far to use a



sherry vinegar, excellent in its own right, rather than a substitute.

Other uses for balsamico:

A teaspoonful in half an avocado. Sprinkled sparingly on sliced pineapples and, in summer, sprinkled on strawberries. A teaspoonful of *balsamico tradizionale* on top of a scoop of vanilla ice cream, and lastly, mixed with extra virgin olive oil and crushed garlic, as a dipping sauce for *crudités* or deep-fried morsels.

F.B.

April bargain showers

Jane MacQuitty offers some tasty recommendations for the new season to put you ahead of the value seekers

Splash out on a cut-price buy: plenty of white wine about for good, ordinary swigging

Chablis and sancerre for £4.99 a bottle, champagne at a rock-bottom £8.79. Whatever can the wine trade be thinking of? Discounting to survive, that's what. Slashed prices to boost sales early in 1992 were predictable. But more buoyant figures have failed to materialise and traders are discounting with a vengeance.

Just about the only recession-proof bottle this spring is the £1.99er. The Victoria Wine Company launched its spring offensive last month by reducing the price of its Bulgarian country wine range to £1.99, and sold a year's supply in a month.

It hopes to do the same again in April with the popular French Full Red, a gluggable, part-rhône, part-beaujolais inspired bottle from Paul Boutinot. Victoria Wine's robust, blackcurranty version differs from the others in that its price until April 29 is £1.99.

Step into spring, too, with Victoria Wine's bargain, quality German wine trio. These are ideal wines for this country's climate and taste. Try them lightly chilled on a dull, April day.

The 1988 Albiger Hundskopf Auslese (£4.99), made from the siegerrebe grape and blessed with lots of ripe, intense lychee-like fruit, is the fullest and richest. Try splashing a little over a spring bowl of fruit salad as well as drinking a glass with it for an April treat. The zesty, floral 1988 Dexheimer Doktor Kabinett (£3.59) is made from the equally scented scheurebe grape and is best served on its own. But the 1988 Bad Kreuznacher Kahlenberg Riesling Spätlese (£4.95), with its peachy scent and lightly luscious palate, will go down well with spring puddings.

If wine purchases seem an indulgence in a month when you should be paying off your overdraft, then make certain you catch Tesco's trio of special purchases from April 13, which are likely to sell out within days, not weeks. Almost half-price chablis and sancerre for good, ordinary swigging — as opposed to special quality — are not to be sniffed at.

I was impressed with the 1990 Sancerre from the Celliers de Cérès (£4.99), whose exotic, slightly overblown, mango and lychee perfume, led on to more traditional sauvignon-sancerre character. Marginally less worthwhile is the 1991 chablis from Bacheroy-Josselin, whose pungent scent and fruity, steely style will please chablis lovers (£4.99). Cut-price champagne, despite the much-publicised greed of the Champenois, is happily still with us.

Tesco's Paul Létrier Réserve comes from Champagne Castelnau and is a predominantly pinot noir blend, hence its full, rich, herbaceous-nutty style. A giveaway at £8.79.

Several High Street wine buyers, most notably Oddbins, are now maintaining that the 1991, frost-engendered, French white wine crisis, affecting quantity and quality, is not as bad as originally thought.

I am not at all certain that I agree. On April 18 there will be free tastings of Oddbins' 1991 Domaine St Lannes, a Gascony vin de pays (£3.39) from one of the worst frost-affected areas of France. (Ten per cent off an unmixed case if you purchase it on the day.)

I found it a pleasant, flowery, marzipan-spiked mouthful, but with a tell-tale watery quality that denotes a less than successful vintage. The same complaint could be levelled at Oddbins' 1991 Domaine de Joy, Gascony white (£2.99), with its lime and melon scent.

Nor am I especially taken with the 1991 Trois Mouline (£3.69). This light, somewhat bland sauvignon is usually a Bordeaux-sourced wine. But, due to the 1991 frosts, it has been sourced this year from the south and is a vin de pays d'Oc. Taste this on April 18

A much better Oddbins bet this month is its new red, 1990 Domaine de Triennes (£4.69), a vin de pays from the Var. Aubert de Villaine and winemaker Jacques Seysses, both important names in Burgundy, are two of the partners behind this new southern venture, and their oak-aged cabernet sauvignon and syrah Les Aureliens-blended Triennes red is a stunner. Try it on free tasting today at Oddbins branches and enjoy its ripe, powerful, peppery flavours. Again, a 10 per cent discount on an unmixed case applies, today only.

Sainsbury's ever-changing, multi-buy wine reductions are worth checking out this month, as usual. Champagne drinkers should note that this supermarket's well-made, elegant, flowery, nutty, non-vintage Brut from Duval-Leroy, comes down to £10.45, provided you buy two. The same applies to the pleasing, blackcurranty, non-vintage Cabernet Sauvignon Selection from Skalli, at £3.84 each, if you buy two.

Look out, too, for the German multi-buy promotion at Sainsbury's, where purchases of any two of eight different German wines qualify for a 60p discount.

MacQuitty favourites on this list include the 1989 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt Riesling (£3.99) and the 1988 Dalsheimer Burg Rodenstein Kabinett (£3.09).

Finally, even Marks & Spencer, a supermarket not noted for its wine bargains, has reduced two of its priciest and most popular bottles, among others, for April.

I have always admired the M&S chablis and the latest 1989 vintage is as delicious as ever with its floral, herbaceous style.

The sunburnt, juicy 1989 St Michael Châteauneuf-du-Pape is equally appetising. Both are reduced from £7.50 to £6.99 from April 6.

Ill wind blows through my new lambing hut

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

It has been a black week, but a happy one and much of my pleasure has been due to a reader of this column. Some weeks ago I wrote of my longing to own a shepherd's hut: a little house on wheels in which shepherds would dwell at lambing time, watching over their flocks by night.

I imagined it with a spartan bunk and a cheery billy-stove to give warmth to both shepherd and sickly lambs during the chilly nights. It would have a double door so the top half could be opened for fresh air, but the bottom remain closed for cosiness.

Perhaps there might be room in it for an old leather chair in which I could doze and again imagine myself as Hardy's hero shepherd, Gabriel Oak, tending my flock of Dorset sheep. I could hear the crackle of the kindling, the sing of the kettle, the bear of the rain on the tiny windows as the hut rocked gently in the stormy winds. But most of these huts were built of timber and, having fallen redundant, were allowed to rot in the fields. To be honest, I never expected to find one.

I did not reckon upon Farmer Payne of Essex, who retires this week. He wrote to tell me he has been the proud owner of just such a hut. I fled south with the speed of a cow escaping a warble-fly and found, lying in his farmyard, the hut of my dreams. It is big, and black. It oozes preserving black tar and atmosphere, and is as sound as the day the builder, G. Candy of Roxwell, proudly screwed his nameplate above the door. No sooner had the hut taken its place on our farm than it started to work its magic.

It so happened that I had decided that the day on which the hut was due was also the day that the sheep would have their feet trimmed. Sheep are naturally mountain animals and would wear away their hoofs in the normal course of scrabbling over rocks. Ambling round meadows does not have the same abrasive effect, so the shepherd has to do the toe-nail cutting for them.

Having eased the precious hut off its transporter, settled it into position, admired it and made plans for the stove, I went up to the top of the farm to gather the sheep.

They looked a fine sight from afar; washed white by the recent rains and set against the vivid green of the sprouting spring grass. The lambs frolicked, the old ewes kept their head down, grazing, raising their eyes only to check that I was no threat to their offspring.

NICK DAVIES

Home from home: Farmer Heiney with his shepherd's hut

Except, that is, one ewe. She lay helplessly on her back, twitching, legs in the air, stomach distending to the point of bursting. Her eyes rolled, mouth frothed. She had bloat. Bloat is caused by a build-up of gas in the sheep, due either to over-eating or the ewe having rolled accidentally on to her back and not being able to get the right way up. In such a position, sheep are unable to expel gases and can quickly die. A good shepherd must act quickly.

The hut having cast its nostalgic spell, with Gabriel Oak on my mind, I remembered the dramatic scene in *Far From the Madding Crowd* when a whole flock was found "swollen with wind" on clover. "Gabriel was already among the turgid prostrate forms. He flung off his coat, rolled up his shirt-sleeves, and took from his pocket the instrument of their salvation . . ."

He was a braver man than I am, for what he held in his hand was a lance with which to pierce the sheep's rumen and allow the gases to escape. Fine if you hit the right spot, deadly if you miss.

Turning my back on tradition I took the easier route and ran to the kitchen, poured a cup of cooking oil and, having hauled the sheep to her feet, poured it down her throat. I have been told this never fails and the only precaution the shepherd must take is to stand well back, for the accumulated gases can make a rapid exit from both ends at once.

In fact, it gushed with such vigour that it woke my other piece of black-but-happy news. Alice, the Large Black sow, is once again in her sty and about to farrow. She raised her snout to sniff the shepherd's hut as it trundled by and gave a dismissive *hrr-oink*!

Alice knows from experience that sheep get all the blooming attention round here and it is highly probable that when her time comes, she will merely nestle down and deliver her litter in silence and without fuss. She fears too that now the farmer has a cosy little nest of his own and a stove over which to play shepherds, the swill bucket will be even later in arriving. *Hrr-oink.*

Glory to a manor reborn

The National Trust plans to spend about £7.5 million on restoring a moated Tudor manor in Kent. **Bea Cowan** explains why

View on the past: an oriel window being restored by craftsmen

Six hundred years is a good age for any building, says Stuart Page, the architect to the National Trust who is working at Ightham Mote, near Sevenoaks in Kent. "We hope that as a result of what we've done, we have given it a few more hundred years' life. And we have conserved the building's atmosphere despite all the repairs."

The first phase of a programme expected to continue until at least the end of the century has been completed, the trust claiming to have fulfilled its policy to retain as much as possible of the spirit of the place, yet maintain the structure.

This phase has cost almost £250,000. The total cost will be around £7.5 million, with money from English Heritage, bequests and donations and money raised by public appeals. It is the largest work of conservation of its kind the trust has so far undertaken.

After two years of intensive work to the northeast quarter, visitors can again see round this fascinating part of one of the oldest moated manor houses in the country.

With new bedrooms, dressing rooms, bathroom and servants' rooms, as well as the re-opened Old Chapel, Tudor Chapel and two solars, the public will find it hard to realise how near the building was to collapse two years ago.

Ightham Mote was left to the trust by an American businessman in 1985, and is one of the most beautiful properties in the country. One of only a handful of its kind, lying in a secluded valley, with a moat surrounding its mellow ragstone walls, it has a perfect medieval setting.

The house is unusual in that continuous occupation from about 1340 to this century has given it an almost unbroken sequence of domestic architecture. Essentially a home rather than a fortress or castle, the Mote's only connection with grandeur came in 1518, when it was bought by Richard Clement, a courtier to Henry VII and Henry VIII, who embellished the house with Tudor decorations such as the rose and pomegranate. Nowhere else could you find a 14th-century Great Hall, a Tudor gatehouse, a Jacobean drawing room and Victorian bedrooms and kitchens, all around one courtyard.

But this very mixture brought its problems. The piecemeal addition of extra wings and elevations had led to numerous sloping roofs. The lead in the guttering where the tiles met had cracked, allowing water to enter. Plasterwork from the 1890s, made from cement renders intended to repair older plaster render, trapped water inside.

Timber rotted. Death watch beetle and woodworm followed. Masonry flaked away. Glass panes, some from the 16th century and already fragile, fell out as lead strips holding them together buckled and bent with stress.

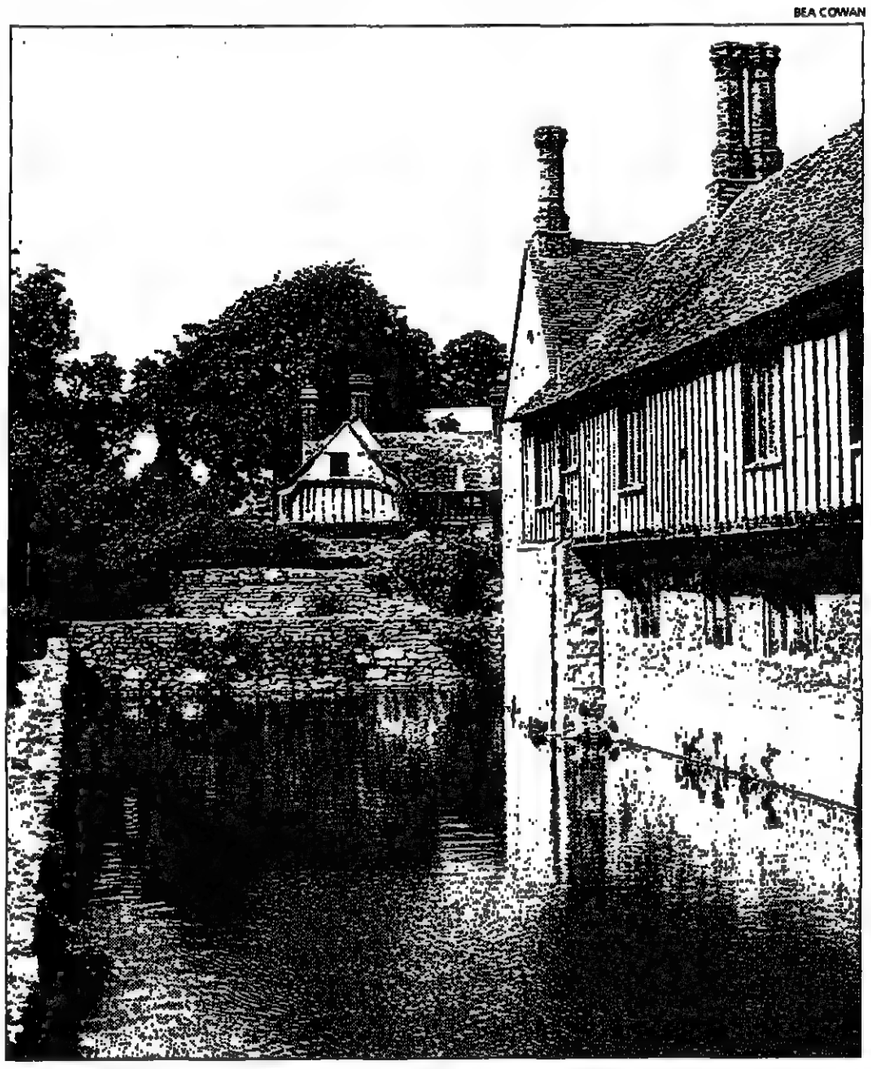
Mr Page marvels that the building had stayed up at all. "I'm used to investigating timber-framed buildings, only to wonder what holds them up," he says. "But this was exceptional. We had to expose large areas to deal with the damaged parts."

Now the scaffolding is down. The temporary roof has been removed. Most signs have gone of the spectacular extremes builders and craftsmen went to as they removed and treated rotten beams, worked to make the roof sound and watertight or dealt with lead, stonework and glass. What is visible is a careful blend of old and new aimed to keep the historical interest and the beauty of the house as well as give long-lasting stability to the structure.

To maintain the blend, the trust called on a range of craftsmen, from leadworkers and stonemasons to wallpaper conservators, fabric specialists, glass conservators, chimney and metal workers.

Visitors to Ightham Mote can see the traditional scissor joints, visible from the outside, where carpenters cut out the rotten wood and spliced in new to create an exact match. They will see meticulous repairs with dowels and tenons inserted to the oak mullions of the oriel window which overhangs the courtyard.

BEA COWAN



Six centuries of splendour: Ightham Mote (seen from the south) is built round a central courtyard

Above the window, bargeboards, intricately decorated with fleur-de-lis, roses and pomegranates but badly affected by rot and weathering, were copied from the original before they disintegrated.

"The policy was to save as much of the old wood as possible. Old oak, once correctly treated, often gives greater strength as well as maintaining more of the character of the building. If some of the wood looks new, it will soon blend in with the rest," Mr Page says.

The emphasis on older materials was repeated in other areas too. For repairs to both mortar and plaster, traditional substances again proved to be the best choice. Prepared after careful chemical analysis, these match the original renders, and allow water to escape by evaporation rather than contribute to further damage as did the 19th-century cement-based renders. Where stonework had crumbled beyond repair, masons chiselled stone matched as closely as possible with the original.

Glass conservators retained the old quarries (panes) from the windows where possible to keep the original look, replacing, with thin strips of copper foil or adhesive, the cracked lead strips, introduced in Victorian times. In the jetted window in the northeast corner the leading was reduced to make it more slender, in keeping with what had survived of 16th-century glass rather than the heavier looking Victorian replacements.

As work proceeded, archaeologists made recordings of what was revealed, greatly enhancing knowledge of the sequence of development in the different parts of the building. Most of these discoveries were covered over again as the building was returned to the state in which it came to the trust.

"Balancing the demands of historical interest and accurate conservation presented problems. We are conserving the past, not reinventing it," Mr Page says. "I look on Ightham Mote as a tired old friend in need of a lot of care and attention. It has been a rewarding task providing that care."

● *Ightham Mote is open until the end of October, daily (except Tuesday and Saturday) noon-5.30pm. Sundays and bank holiday Mondays 11am-5.30pm (last admissions 5pm). Weekdays £3.20, Sundays and bank holidays £3.70, child £1.90.*

How to beat the ballot box blues

If you don't want to catch election fever, check in to some special hotel hospitality

Election fever getting you down? Before escaping abroad, consider the depressing news that there is a good chance of being caught up in one of 58 elections taking place around the world. So next week the best bet is to hole up in a British hotel where — devoid of television, newspapers or even radio — you can avoid the party election broadcasts for a couple of nights.

Pack up and escape to the Welsh mountains and Tan-y-Foel ("the little house under the hillside") in the heart of Snowdonia. It has no television, the nearest newsagent is more than a mile away and Berwys-y-Coed, the nearest town, is ten miles away. This nine-bedroom hotel has magnificent views of the Conwy Valley and the Snowdonia National Park with golf, riding and fishing nearby. A two-day break costs £108 per person, including dinner, bed and Welsh breakfast (valid until and including April 9). Book through Crystal Holidays, the Courtyard, Arlington Road, Surbiton, Surrey (081-390 8513).

Craigendarroch Hotel and Country Club on Royal Deeside has devised an election special. Located near Balmoral, this hotel is offering all guests who share the names of John Major, Neil Kinnock or Paddy Ashdown 25 per cent off the normal nightly £105 room rate, which includes a complimentary dinner and champagne on arrival. In addition to two swimming pools, spa bath and squash courts, there is white-water rafting, clay pigeon shooting, riding, golf and salmon fishing. The package is valid until (and including) April 9 (details from Tessa Simpson on 0389 55625).

Huntsham Court won the Cesar award for "utterly acceptable, mild eccentricity" in 1988, though mild is an understatement. A high-camp Gothic pile furnished with oddball eclectic pieces, it has no TVs and no telephones. There are war-time Bakelite radios in the bedrooms, although they won't be playing Forces Favourites. Music, not politics, is the theme at Huntsham. All rooms are named after composers; there is a baby grand in the hall, uprights throughout the main rooms, organs in two of the bedrooms and a collection of more than 6,000, mostly classical, records and cassettes, which guests are free to play on the hi-fi. The atmosphere is like that of a country house party with guests eating communally at one large table. This informal atmosphere leaves people free to dictate the turn of conversation should it veer dangerously towards parliamentary matters. Doubles from £79 to £89, set dinner £22.50.

Huntsham Court is also staging a sorrow drowning weekend on April 10 and 11 — £135 per head for two nights with dinner and breakfast, plus a bottle of champagne. (Huntsham Court, Huntsham Valley, near Tiverton, Devon: 03986 365.)

At Sunlaws House Hotel in Roxburghshire, the only unwanted irritant you are likely to experience is that of the odd ghost wafting along baronial halls. The reading matter is high-brow literature, culled from the library of Floors Castle. During the build-up to the election, Sunlaws has cleared a number of four-poster bedrooms of radios and televisions. From £92 per night inclusive of breakfast. (Sunlaws House Hotel, Kelso, Roxburghshire: 057 35331.)

For music lovers: Huntsham Court in Devon

An enclosed retreat could be the answer to poll-weary prayers. At Burnham Abbey in Taplow, Berkshire, guests join a contemplative, enclosed community. The food is plain and you make your own breakfast and supper. It costs £9 a night. (Write to Burnham Abbey, Lake End Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire: 0628 604080).

Lords of the Manor Hotel in Upper Slaughter, Gloucestershire, is a 17th-century, former rectory. It is staging a post-election blues weekend on April 11 and 12. The emphasis is on pampering and relaxation — and for £140 to £185 per person, guests get a special "post election blues" pre-dinner cocktail, two nights accommodation, full English breakfast, dinner, and chocolates and flowers in the bedroom. (For reservations 0451 20243.)

LOUISE RODDON

Events

☐ **Orienteering event:** Six colour-coded courses, ranging from white to blue.
Buck Wood, Bradford, W. Yorks. Signed from the Bingley Road. Tomorrow. 10am-2.30pm, £1.50, concs 75p.

☐ **Edinburgh gardening workshop:** Afternoon session on seed sowing and pricking out.
Royal Botanic Gardens, Inverleith Row (031-552 7171). April 11, 2.30-4.30pm, £5 (adv. booking essential on 031-552 7171, ext 454).

☐ **Esher anglers:** National angling exhibition with 60 exhibitors selling fishing tackle, clothing and accessories, plus talks, demonstrations and videos.
Sandown Park Exhibition Centre, Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey (0372 467540). Today and tomorrow, 10am-5pm. £4.

☐ **Surrey stroll:** National Trust warden Gordon Flower leads two-hour walk on Headley Heath.
Main car park, Headley, Surrey, off B2033 (opposite Cricket Pitch). Tomorrow, 10.30am, £1.

☐ **Yorkshire farmscape:** Guided four-to-five-mile walk with a National Trust warden looking at how agriculture contributes to the landscape.
Hardcastle Crags, Hebden Bridge, W. Yorks (0422 844518). Tomorrow, 2.30pm, free, donations welcome.

☐ **Lambing open day:** Opportunity to see newborn lambs and lambing ewes. Pregnant women are advised not to come in contact with lambing ewes.
Little Wittenham Nature Reserve, Manor House, Little Wittenham, nr Abingdon, Oxfordshire (086-730 7792). Tomorrow, 10am-4pm, free (no dogs allowed).

☐ **Rural crafts competition:** Competitors test their ploughing, fencing and hedging skills.
Church Farm, Mynyddislwyn, Gwent (0443 813223). Today, 10am, spectators 50p.

☐ **North of England horse show:** 100 horses from cobs to hunters.
Osbaldeston Equestrian Centre, Osbaldeston Hall Farm, nr Blackburn, Lancs (0254 813159/878452). Thurs 8am-6pm, Fri 9am-6pm, spectators free.

☐ **Gamekeeper and countryman fair:** Gun dog high-jump competitions, ferret racing and showing, fishing and falconry, plus 100 trade stands.
St College, Puckeridge, nr Ware, Hertfordshire (0920 821504). Today and tomorrow, 9.30am-5pm. £4, child £2.

☐ **Snettisham birdwatch:** Guided walk with an RSPB warden to see thousands of wading birds such as oystercatchers, dunlins, redshanks.
Snettisham Beach car park, Snettisham, nr Hunstanton, Norfolk (0485 542689). Tomorrow, 7am. £1, concs 50p.

☐ **Walk west of Staindrop:** Eight-mile walk with local enthusiast Alan Davies.
Post Office, Staindrop, nr Barnard Castle, County Durham. Tomorrow, 11am. £1, concs 50p.

GARDENS TO VISIT

☐ **Strathclyde:** Culzean Castle, famous for its fountain garden, terraces and borders, orangery, spring woodlands, lake (adventure playground) visitor centre.
12m S of Ayr on A719, 4m SW of Maybole. Plant sales. Grounds: cars £5 (castle £3, child £1.50). Open daily 10.30am-5.30pm. Special garden tour tomorrow 10am-6pm.

☐ **Shropshire:** New Hall, ten acre garden with grass walks through woodland, wildflowers, pools, streams.
Eaton-under-Heywood, 4m SE of Church Stretton between B4368 and B4371. £1, child 10p. Tomorrow, 2-5pm.

☐ **Sussex:** Berri Court, mixed three acres of trees, daffodils, flowering shrubs, ponds.
On A2024 at Yapton, 5m SW of Arundel. £1, child 30p. Tomorrow and Mon, 2-5pm.

Feather report

A turtledove by any other name

The sermon has often been praised as an aid to meditation. I would like to recommend the bird-watcher's hide for the same purpose. After five minutes in a hide on any decent bird reserve, one is spellbound. After ten minutes one is restless, perhaps even a little bored. But after half an hour one has entered a new state of consciousness.

I was at Elmley, in Kent, which seems to be the draughtiest place in the galaxy, sitting in a hide, mind lost somehere along this third plane of awareness. Why the name *godwit*, of all things, I wondered? Did someone ask, "What bird is that?", and receive the reply, "God knows", or in the dialect, *godde witte*? And why kestrel? Why heron? Why any name?

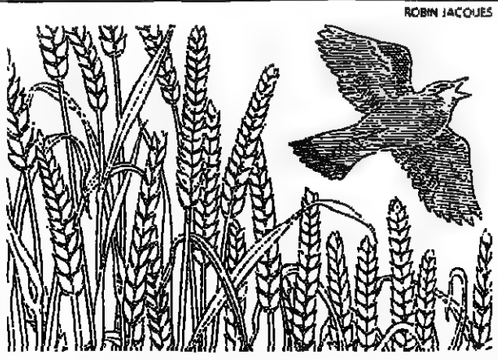
The world is full of bogus and folk etymologies. Take wheatear. According to one source, "it is so called, because fattest when wheat is ripe . . . whereon it feeds". I shall return to wheatears later, but before I move on, I shall point out that the bird eats insects, rather than corn. A clue: its tail and rump flash bright white when it flies away.

Most such meditations vanish when a new bird appears (in this case a magnificent male hen harrier). But this one refused to go. I mean, *why* harrier? And why call a cock bird a hen?

When all else fails, do a little research. I got hold of *The Oxford Book of British Bird Names* and have spent most of the time since in the wouldya-believe-it haze of a child reading the *Guinness Book of Records* for the first time. I discovered that my bird is a harrower, or destroyer, of poultry.

Well, why kestrel then? That one comes from French, like many words related to falcons and falconry. The bird is a *faucon crécerelle* in modern French, and its origin is "doubtless" onomatopoeic.

ROBIN JACQUES



Naming names: why wheatear, when it prefers insects?

Onomatopoeia is the secret of many bird names, including, to my surprise, godwit. People no doubt listened to the world more in the distant pre-Walkman ages. Even heron is a distant echo: the book takes us back to such "implied" roots as *hraigran* and *kraikr*.

A young heron is a heronshaw: it has been suggested that when the wind was northerly Hamlet could tell a hawk from a heronshaw, rather than the distinctly peculiar "handsaw" you find in the text. I have read that a hawk is "a kind of pickaxe", but somehow, I think a prince would be more likely to take up falconry than carpentry as a hobby.

Hobby is another falcon's name: apparently a tribute to the bird's quite extraordinary agility, from Old French *hober*, to jump about. The scientific name for this bird is *falco subbuteo*; the table football game Subbuteo was invented by a birder, who intended it to be a hobby.

But it is the echoic names that dominate, from the obvious, like crow and chough (*craaaw* and *chowww*, the birds say themselves) to the more obscure, like turtle dove. Noah ing to do with aquatic reptiles: in Latin the bird is a *turtur* and it occurs in the Vulgate in both Luke and Leviticus.

To return to the wheatear. White ears? Its ears, or at least the sides of its head, are black. It is the bird's arse that is white. Hence the name. Forgive me, I would not offend for the world, but truth will out. Let me add a scholarly quotation: "The word *arse* did not sink to vulgar status until the 17th century, c.f., arse foot."

This last is a grebe, an admirably designed diving bird that has its legs set far back on its body. Would it be an affectation to refer to the great crested "arsefoot" next time I go to Elmley?

SIMON BARNES

● *Copies of* The Oxford Book of British Bird Names, *by W.B. Lockwood (first published 1984 but now out of print), are obtainable from specialist booksellers such as the Bird and Wildlife Bookshop, 2-4 Princes Arcade, London SW1 6DS.*

● **What's about:** *Birders — watch out for wheatears anywhere making their way to breeding areas. Twitchers — two white-spotted blue throats, in Herne Bay, Kent, and Cononley, N. Yorks. Kentish plover in Rye harbour, Sussex. Details from Birdline, 0898*

Roundheads and Cavaliers, Marston Moor and Naseby . . . people and battlegrounds that

Civil War

Nationwide guide to the war zones

1992 marks the 350th anniversary of the outbreak of the English Civil War, one of the most turbulent and complex chapters of British history. Between 1641 and 1651 more than one in five of all adult males bore arms, and approximately one in 20 lost their lives.

In its aftermath King Charles I was put on trial and beheaded, and the House of Lords, the Church of England and the Prayer Book were abolished.

Yet in the ruins of a collapsed order some of the noblest calls for personal liberty were to be heard. To mark the anniversary, events and activities are planned all over the country throughout the year, including a special Royal Armouries travelling exhibition sponsored by *The Times*.

Below is a selection of some of the highlights of the year's celebrations. Events and special exhibitions as well as a variety of aspects of the Civil War, such as the role of women and local life, as will living history displays and battle re-enactments.

Contact your local tourist information centre for full details of these and many other events and exhibitions, or contact the Civil War Information Service on 0905 355071. Please check details of events before planning your visit.

NIL BROOMHEAD

Casualty: during the Civil War one in 20 soldiers were killed in battle, many millions were wounded and sent to rudimentary field hospitals

NORTH

☐ **Baysgarth Leisure Park**
Caistor Road, Barton upon Humber, South Humberside (0652 32318)
"In the Name of God, Amen": an exhibition about the Civil War and its effect on the people of Lincolnshire. A musical event and a battle staged by the Sealed Knot are planned to coincide with this exhibition. Further details will be available from the museum at a later date. April 30-August 2. Thurs, Fri, bank holidays, 10am-4pm; Sat, Sun, 10am-5pm. Barton upon Humber Civil War Festival including a mini-muster by the Sealed Knot on both days to produce a spectacular re-creation of a Civil War battle, fun fair, craft stalls and numerous events. May 16-17. Sat, Sun, 12.30-5pm. £1; child 50p.

☐ **County and Regimental Museum**
Stanley Street, Preston, Lancashire PR1 4YP (0772 264075)
"Civil War in Lancashire" exhibition telling the story of the county's involvement in the English Revolution. Among the artefacts gathered from local and national collections are arms and armour, paintings, and coins. April 6-25. 10am-5pm daily except Thurs and Sun. £1.

☐ **Helmsely Castle/Duncombe Park**
Helmsely, North Yorkshire (0439 70442)
A major battle re-enactment staged by the English Civil War Society, jointly organised by English Heritage and Duncombe Park. The battle will be held in the park with the backdrop of Helmsley Castle, which was besieged in 1644. Visitors will be able to visit the castle and park on the same admission ticket. Troops will garrison the castle as well as re-fight the battle. July 25,26. Battles commence 3pm.

☐ **Hull**
Hull City Museums and Art Galleries, 83 Alfred Gelder Street, HU1 3EP (0482 593902)
Wilberforce House Museum, High Street, Hull — once the home of William Wilberforce, and the place in 1639 where Charles I was welcomed by the then owner and mayor, Sir John Lister — will display many aspects of life in the 17th century. Religion, politics, coinage, trade, customs and social life will feature in didactic displays with re-creations of "how we used to live" in the 17th-century banqueting room and bedroom. April-December every day (except Good Fri). Free.

Other events in Hull: Showing of the film *Cromwell* at Fernes Art Gallery, April 15, 2pm and 7.30pm. Free. Civil War flower festival concert at Holy Trinity Church, April 22-23. Beverley Gate Day civic service at Holy Trinity Church, April 23, 12.30pm; also visit by the former Speaker of the House of Commons, Lord Tonypandy, at 2.45 pm, and Lord Mayor's Charity Ball at the City Hall. Cromwell Association AGM at the Old Grammar School, April 25, 10.30am-1pm. Civil War music in streets in the city centre, April 25. Re-enactment of the "refusal" of King Charles I at Beverley Gate by the English Civil War Society, April 25, 1.30pm, including drill display involving horses and a regiment of foot soldiers. "The Siege of Hull and All That": history recreated for primary school children by the English Civil War Society, June 15-19; prior booking essential. *The Story of Hull and its People*, a play by the people, for the people, City

Hull: events to year's end

Hall, June 16-17, 7.30 pm. "A Major Muster": the Civil War in action involving 1,000 people, 200lb of gunpowder and 30 horses. Two musters, of about one hour each, are planned for 3pm on June 20-21 — family entertainment with a story and commentary. "1642 in Hull": a chance for people to walk around Wilberforce House and gardens and speak to characters in period costume about life in a merchant house: July 11-12. Free.

☐ **John Rylands Library**
John Rylands University Library, 150 Deans Gate, Manchester (061-834 5343)
Special commemorative exhibition with contemporary political and religious tracts, books, illustrated maps and manuscripts, together with costumes and artefacts designed to create a flavour of Manchester life during the Civil War. Sept 25-Dec 12.

☐ **Lathom House**
Near Ormskirk, Lancashire (0695 573716)
Re-enactment by the Sealed Knot of the siege which began in spring 1644, when General Fairfax took command. Also country fair, craft stalls, hog roasts and funfair; June 13-14. Two musters of the troops involving 3,000 people, 30 horses and 200lb of gunpowder, accompanied by a full commentary. From 3pm.

☐ **Oakwell Hall**
Nutter Lane, Birstall, Batley, W. Yorks WF17 9LG (0924 474926)
Call to Arms re-enacted by the Sealed Knot to commemorate the start of the Civil War. Sept 5-6. Also re-enactment of the Battle of Adwalton Moor a mile from Oakwell Hall. An exhibition about civilian and domestic life at the time of the war will tour Oakwell Hall, Bolling Hall and Shibden Hall as well as other museums in Yorkshire and elsewhere during 1993 and 1994, and aims to show an aspect of life sometimes overlooked in favour of the upheaval and terror of the war.

☐ **Prudhoe Castle**
Prudhoe, Northumberland (0661 833459)
"Music of the Cavaliers and Roundheads": small show featuring English Heritage's talented musical duo Hautbois. Music from the reign of Charles I, dancing and unusual water muskets which children can fire. May 20-25, from 2pm. Also craft fair, May 23.

☐ **Warkworth Castle**
English Heritage, Warkworth, nr Alnwick, Northumberland (0665 711423)
Show featuring English Heritage's musical duo Hautbois. Music and dancing. Aug 12-14. Living history depicting the Scots garrison of Warkworth Castle in 1644, when the Scottish army crossed into England, reducing Royalist garrisons en route, to join the Parliamentary army for the great battle of Marston Moor. Visitors will be able to see the garrison carrying out everyday duties, craftsmen, camp followers, etc. Drill, cannon firings, musketeers sallying against the enemy and other incidents each day. Aug 15-16.

WEST COUNTRY

☐ **Bickleigh Castle**
nr Tiverton, Devon EX16 8RP (0884 855363)
Civil War Festival of Flowers. Sept 10-13. £2.80; children (5-15) £1.40.

☐ **Collegiate Church of the Holy Cross**
Church Street, Crediton, Devon EX17 2AQ (0363 773786)
Roundheads and Cavaliers flower festival. June 6-13, Mon-Sun 10am. Free.

☐ **Dunster Castle**
National Trust Dunster, nr Minehead, Somerset (0984 32291)
Members of the Sealed Knot stage a garrison weekend, with 100 soldiers and their families recreating the atmosphere of the 17th-century village at war. June 6-7. Sat and Sun, 11am-4pm. £2.20, child £1.10.

☐ **Farleigh Hungerford Castle**
English Heritage Farleigh Hungerford, west of Trowbridge, Somerset (0272 734472)
"Music of the Cavaliers and Roundheads" — show featuring musical duo Hautbois. Music from the reign of Charles I, dancing and some unusual water muskets which children can fire. April 29-May 2. 2pm.

☐ **Okehampton Castle**
English Heritage, Okehampton, Devon (0837 52844)
300 pikemen, musketeers and artillery men of the Sealed Knot in encampment and re-enacting battle tactics of the era. July 18,19. Battles from 3pm.

☐ **Old Sarum**
nr Salisbury, Wilts (0722 335398)
"Music of the Cavaliers and Roundheads" show featuring musical duo Hautbois. Music from the reign of Charles I, dancing and water muskets children can fire: Aug 26-29, from 2pm. "The King and the Cause!" is a light-hearted look at the events of the Civil War staged by Miracle Theatre at several sites: Aug 30-31.

☐ **Old Wardour Castle**
nr Tisbury, Wilts (0747 870487)
Small-scale garrison weekends during the summer, commencing April 25-26. "Music of the Cavaliers and Roundheads" from English Heritage's musical duo Hautbois, July 29-31, from 2pm.

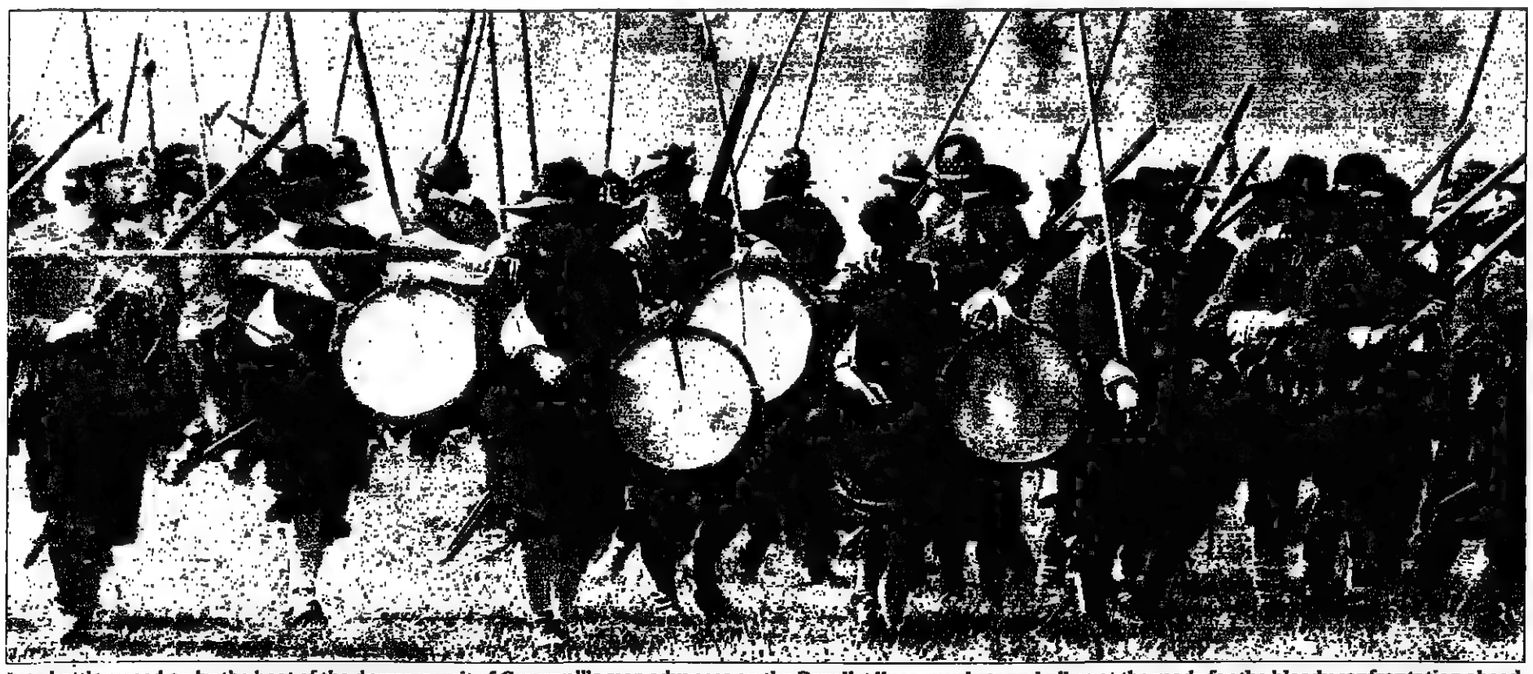
☐ **Pendennis Castle**
nr Falmouth, Cornwall (0326 316594)
"Music of the Cavaliers and Roundheads" featuring Hautbois. July 22-24, from 2pm. Also "The King and the Cause!", a light-hearted look at the Civil War period staged by Miracle Theatre, with music by Hautbois, dance and soldiers of the era: July 25-26.

☐ **Restormel Castle**
nr Lostwithiel, Cornwall (020887 2687)
"Music of the Cavaliers and Roundheads" by Hautbois. Aug 5-7, from 2pm. Also "The King and the Cause!", a light-hearted look at the Civil War period with music by Hautbois, dance and soldiers of the era. Aug 8-9.

☐ **Royal Albert Memorial Museum**
Queen Street, Exeter EX4 3RX (0392 265858)
Exhibition including a variety of maps, photographs, contemporary pamphlets and artefacts to commemorate the part played by the West Country in the war. The exhibition will subsequently tour a number of venues throughout the southwest. June 9-Aug 29.

☐ **Royal Cornwall Museum**
River Street, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2SJ (0872 72205)
Exhibition based on events and personalities connected with the Civil War in Cornwall. Nov 1-Dec 31. Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm.

☐ **Sherborne "Old" Castle**
Sherborne, Dorset (0935 812730)



Into battle: urged on by the beat of the drums, a unit of Cromwell's men advances on the Royalist lines, muskets and pikes at the ready for the bloody confrontation ahead

☐ **Basing House**
Redbridge Lane, Basing, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 0HB (Alan Turton, 0256 467294)
Parade and skirmish by the Sealed Knot, April 5, 3pm. Living history display, May 7. Picnic in costume, with the king, to the accompaniment of period music and entertainment, June 17, 3-5pm. Living history display, July 5. "Love Loyalty" community festival of theatre, the arts and entertainment of the period. A glittering masque, a country fair, and dramatic theatrical event based on the siege of Basing House, which lasted for three and a half years until its fall to Cromwell in October 1645. Aug 31-Sept 12. £7.50-£9.50 (concessions £4.50-£6.50) from TIC (0256 817618).

☐ **Bishops Waltham Palace**
Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire (0489 892460)
"Music of the Cavaliers and Roundheads" from Hautbois. June 17-19, from 2pm. Also "The King and the Cause!", a light-hearted look

SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST

at the Civil War staged by Miracle Theatre, together with music by Hautbois, dance and soldiers of the era: June 20-21.

☐ **Deal Castle**
On the coast south west of Deal town centre, Kent (0304 372762)
"Music of the Cavaliers and Roundheads" from Hautbois. Oct 14-18 from 2pm.

☐ **Dover Castle**
On the east side of Dover, Kent (0304 201628)
"Music of the Cavaliers and Roundheads" show with dancing. Sept 3-4, from 2pm.

☐ **Farnham Castle Keep**
Surrey (0252 713393)
Re-enactments of 1645 events at this small Parliamentary garrison. Sept 12-13.

☐ **Farnham Museum**
38 West Street, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7DX (0252 715094)
"Sir William Waller and the Civil War in the Farnham Area": first exhibition devoted to the Parliamentarian general, Sir William Waller, whose forces took Farnham Castle from the Royalists in the early stages of the war. The exhibition will include portraits, contemporary medals, prints and artefacts of the period: Nov 3. "How They Ate During The Civil War": 17th-century cooking demonstration; Nov 14.

☐ **National Army Museum**
Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, SW3 4HT (071-730 0717)
A series of talks weekly throughout April and May on Civil War themes.

☐ **National Portrait Gallery**
St Martin's Place, WC2H 0HE (071-306 0055)
A series of monthly lectures: April-Dec.

Safe keeping: Leeds Castle in Kent housed Cromwell's

● *Information on these pages supplied by the English Tourist Board on the basis of information submitted by the promoters of the activities/premises listed. The English Tourist Board cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information and accepts no responsibility for any error or misrepresen-*

Campaigner: condemned to death for cowardice after

will be commemorated this year to mark the 350th anniversary of the start of the Civil War

Show featuring musical duo Hautbois. Music from the reign of Charles I, dancing, and water-muskets for children to fire; June 3-5. Also, living history re-creating the first siege of Sherborne Old Castle when the Royalists successfully drove off a Parliamentary force. Visitors will be able to see the garrison carrying out their everyday duties, craftsmen, camp followers, officers, etc. There will be drill, cannon firings, musketeers sallying against the enemy and other incidents each day. June 6-7.

☐ **Stamford**
Stamford Hill, Stratton, Bude, Cornwall
A re-enactment of the Battle of Stamford Hill (1643) by 400 members of the Sealed Knot Society. May 16-17. £1.50, child/OAP 75p. Group discounts available.

☐ **Tiverton Castle**
Park Hill, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6RP (0884 253200)
Civil War Armoury Exhibition. Some pieces of armour can be tried on by visitors. April 17-Sept 27. Sun-Thurs 2.30-5.30pm. £2.50, child £1.50, groups £2, £1.

MIDLANDS

☐ **Ashby de la Zouch Castle**
English Heritage in Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire
"Music of the Cavaliers and Roundheads": show with English Heritage's musical duo Hautbois. May 7-10, from 2pm.

☐ **Bolsover Castle**
English Heritage in Bolsover, 6m east of Chesterfield on the A632, Derbyshire
"Music of the Cavaliers and Roundheads": show featuring musical duo Hautbois. Music from the reign of Charles I. Sept 16-20, from 2pm.

☐ **Boscobel House**
nr Albrighton, north west of Wolverhampton, Shropshire (0902 850244)
"With Musket and Pike": living history depicting the garrison of Lichfield marching to join the king prior to the Battle of Naseby in 1645. May 30-31. "The King and the Cause!": a light-hearted look at the Civil War period staged by Miracle Theatre, together with music by Hautbois, dance and soldiers of the era. July 4-5.

☐ **Boston Guildhall Museum**
South Street, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 6HT (0205 365954)
"Boston During the English Civil War" exhibition. Nov 2-28, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm.

☐ **Dudley Castle**
2 The Broadway, Dudley, W. Midlands DY1 4QB (the castle keeper 0384 235305)
Following a grant from Marks & Spencer, Dudley Castle will be offering an educational service "For Kynge and Parliament", on military aspects of the Civil War. Education and advice are available. Jan-Dec.

☐ **Edgehill**
nr Radway, Warwickshire
Event sponsored by the Sealed Knot to mark the anniversary of the battle of Edgehill in 1642. Oct 23-25. Torchlit service at 6pm on October 23 will honour the battle dead.

☐ **Goodrich Castle**
nr Ross-on-Wye, Hereford & Worcester (0600 890538)
Major living history showing the Parliamentary Garrison of 1643. Aug 8-9.

☐ **Great Yarmouth Museums**
Norfolk (0493 855746)
"Living history" event at Tolhouse Museum and Elizabethan House for schools, based on incidents in the Civil War in the buildings where they actually happened. John Carter, who lived in the Elizabethan House, was Captain of the local militia and the Royalist leader, St John Wentworth, was caught and placed under arrest in the Tolhouse Prison. May 6-8. Also walking tours of Great Yarmouth looking at buildings associated with the war, June-July 1992.

☐ **Hereford City Museums**
Broad Street, Hereford (0432 268121)
Civil War display — "The Civil War in Hereford" in Old House, High Town, Hereford, May.

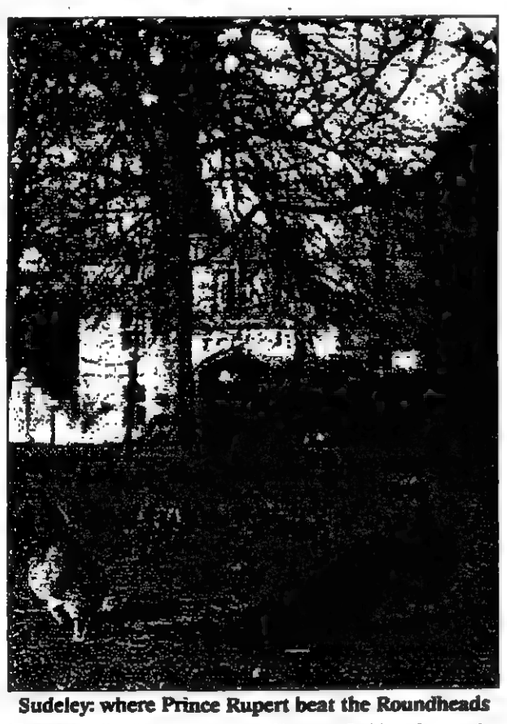
☐ **Holdenby House**
Northampton, Northamptonshire (0604 770074)
Major muster by the Sealed Knot with 3,000 participants; April 19-20, 1-6pm. £3.50, child £2. Civil War Week: workshops on the Civil War, studying the lifestyle of soldiers, followers and Charles I, using the 17th-century farmstead and house; May 18-22. Children's Civil War pageant: 17th-century living history village and drills by the Holmby guard; May 24-25.

☐ **Kenilworth Castle**
English Heritage in Kenilworth, Warwickshire
"Music of the Cavaliers and Roundheads": show featuring English Heritage's musical duo Hautbois. Music from the reign of Charles I, dancing and water muskets. April 16-20, 2pm.

☐ **Nottingham**
Nottinghamshire County Council, NG2 6BJ (county tourism officer 0602 824215/824212)
Commemorative exhibition at Rufford Mill, focusing on the key role played by Nottinghamshire folk during the Civil War; May 11-Nov 1. Joint production between Major Road Theatre Company and Nottingham Playhouse featuring music, spectacle and fireworks held in Newark Castle Grounds, Newark; July 15-18. An exhibition of material from the local history library and the Archives Office will be staged at the Angel Row Library; July 27-Aug 29. Major contemporary exhibition in Civil War theme, at Contemporary Visual Arts Gallery, Angel Row Library, Nottingham; July 25-Aug 23. Nottingham Castle is hosting a special exhibition tracing the role of women in the war, society and the arts of the mid-17th century; July 11-Sept 20. Raising of the King's standard by the Sealed Knot, plus colourful spectacular on Nottingham Castle Green and a march to the Old Market Square. Aug 22, 6pm.

☐ **Oxfordshire**
Oxfordshire County Museum, Woodstock, OX20 1SP (0993 811456)
Civil War Activities Fortnight at Banbury; Aug 3-15 (0295 268249). Oxfordshire in the Civil War exhibition at the Museum of Oxford, Sept 12-Dec 9. Sources, Sept 17; The Court, Sept 24; Fortifications, Oct 1; and Town and Gown, Oct 8 — all lunchtime talks at the Museum of Oxford: 1.15-1.45pm.

☐ **Stow-on-the-Wold**
Gloucestershire
Re-enactment of the battle of Stow-on-the-Wold in 1646 by the Sealed Knot. Other entertainments include bands, falconry displays and a fair. July 4-5.


Sudeley: where Prince Rupert beat the Roundheads

☐ **Sudeley Castle**
Winchcombe, Cheltenham, Glos GL54 5JD (0242 602308)
Re-enactment of Civil War garrison by the Sealed Knot; May 9-10. Re-enactment of Prince Rupert's victory against the Roundheads in the park surrounding the castle; May 24-25. Major muster in the country with 4,000 pikemen, 40 cannon and 40 cavalry; May 24-25. A second muster of Sudeley's own militia; July 19.

☐ **Warwick Castle**
Warwickshire CV34 2QU (0926 495421)
Civil War castle tour, including paintings, stories and artefacts from the period; throughout 1992.

☐ **Worcester**
The Commandery, Sidbury, WR1 2HU; Civil War information (0905 355071)
Civil War walk and quiz by Wyvern Guides for under 18s. Booking essential. April to Sept (0905 422126). Exhibition illustrating various types of 17th and early 18th-century tableware and domestic ware at Dyson Perrins Museum, Porcelain Severn Street; April - Dec (0905 23221). A week-long encampment at the Commandery Civil War Centre by the Worcester Militia; April 18-24. Worcester Entertains, a reconstruction of events from 1642 at venues all over the city, including call out of militia and election of Parliamentarian mayor. Sites include Greyfriars, Guildhall, Cathedral, Commandery, Bennetts Farm Park, Countryside Centre and City Museum and Art gallery; July 4-Aug 31 (0905 723471). Civil War Festival with Worcester Militia encampment, at Commandery Civil War Centre, Sidbury; July 1-15 (0905 3550781). Re-enactment of the first clash between the two armies at the Battle of Powick will be the largest cavalry battle on English soil since the 17th century; Sept 19-20 (0905 726311). "Parliamentarians Occupy the City" — follow the action after the Battle of Powick; Sept 25-27 (0905 726311).


Siege: Royalists laid siege to Warwick Castle in 1642, after Lord Brooke came down on Cromwell's side. They were repelled after a few weeks

Today: *Raise a glass to the English Revolution (Review).* **Next Saturday:** *Free with your copy of* The Times, *a special 12-page edition of* The Times *of 1642. Plus Civil War Commemorative Coin special offer (*Weekend Times*); Civil War Map, Oliver Cromwell profile, and Hull — birthplace of the Civil War (*Review*).* **Also next week in Weekend Times:** *Easter Extravaganza — exciting ideas for days out that all the family can enjoy.*


Enemies: Charles I's parade armour and a Roundhead

THE TIMES

Hear the call to arms

THE finest Civil War pieces in the Royal Armoury's collection will be shown for the first time outside the Tower of London in the travelling exhibition, "Civil War". Through the arms and armour of kings, commanders and ordinary soldiers, the exhibition will present the realities and reveal the myths of the conflict of the Cavaliers and Roundheads. Among the exhibits on display will be Charles I's gilt armour and the miniature cannon belonging to his son, later Charles II. "Civil War", sponsored by *The Times*, opens next Saturday in Hull, where 350 years ago the first armed confrontation took place between the forces of King and Parliament.

☐ **HULL**
Town Docks Museum (0482 593902)
April 11-May 31

☐ **COVENTRY**
Whitefriars Museum (0203 832433)
June 6-July 26

☐ **NOTTINGHAM**
Castle Museum (0602 483504)
Aug 1-Sept 20

☐ **WORCESTER**
Foregate Museum (0905 355071)
Sept 26-Jan 3 1993

☐ **CIRENCESTER**
Corinium Museum (0285 655611)
Jan 9-March 28 1993

● *Royal Armouries, H.M. Tower of London, EC3N 4AB (071-480 6358).*

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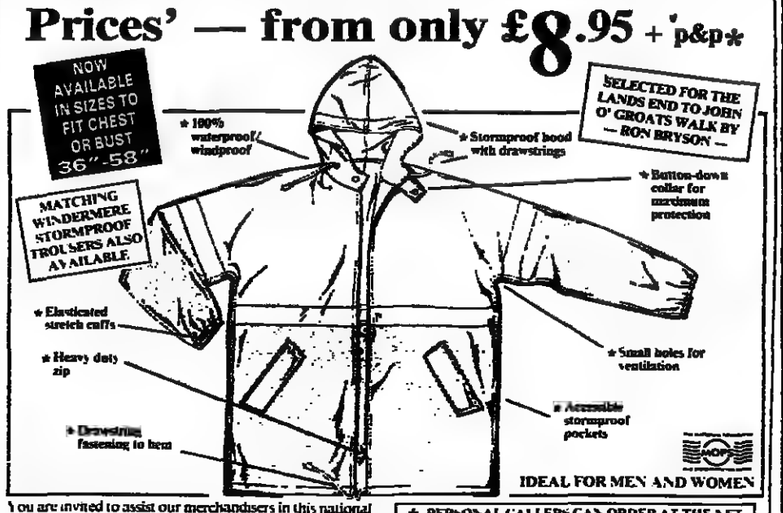

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Flowers to greet a cuckoo

Cardamine is worth a National Collection, Francesca Greenoak reports

A few years ago I planted some *Cardamine pentaphyllos* without much idea of how it was going to turn out. I am now glad of these uncommon, early season flowers (this year blooming from late March), the clear pink-lilac showing up well against the bold, serrated, dark green leaflets.

This plant likes dampish shade, and even a small group brings a touch of glamour to a north-facing border. Mine have increased into a clump, which combines in happy informality with other early flowers, such as blue lungworts and ultramarine *Scilla siberica*.

Among other less well-known species are the taller, pale-flowered *Cardamine heptaphylla* and the dropping bittercress *Cardamine enneaphyllos*, which has hanging bells in a soft, dowdy yellow or cream. These plants also do well in fertile shade or semi-shade.

The most evocative plant in this genus is the lady's smock, or cuckoo flower (*Cardamine pratensis*), the much-loved native English wildflower. Pretty though it is, with its pink buds and silvery-white full-blown flowers, it is not a plant for flower beds, where it looks out of place. It must be grown in grass, so that the pale flowers can rise above the fresh green spring growth.

They have a double-flowered cousin which produces flowers of great distinction: whorls of pale pink, notched petals, in spikes too dainty for meadow surroundings. They look much better grouped in beds or dotted about in borders. Although they will survive in shade, they are far happier in a sunnier (but damp) position.

I discovered only recently that there are named forms of lady's smock: William is a darker pink double and Edith its almost white equivalent. There is also a petal-less oddity which produces greeny, sepalled flowers that Dr Alan Leslie (of Monksilver Nursery, Cottenham in Cambridgeshire, which offers these unusual forms) calls Improperly Dressed. Lady's smocks have the additional benefit of being the preferred food plant of the orange tip, one of our most beautiful spring butterflies.

DAVID HUTCHSON

In the pink: beds of *Cardamine pentaphyllos* in parks and gardens across Britain are now in full bloom: inset, detail of the flowers

Trifoliate bittercress (*Cardamine trifolia*), another little known but desirable member of the Cardamine clan, has dark, three-lobed, evergreen leaflets, which are ivy-shaped and tinged with purple beneath. Its early summer flowers are smaller (and in some forms slightly frilly) white versions of lady's smock, though never much taller than 6in/15cm, and it makes an attractive edging plant for shaded conditions. Washfield Nursery in Hawkhurst, Kent (0580 752522), and Beth Chatto's Unusual Plants of Elmstead Market, near Colchester, Essex (0206 822007), stock *trifolia*.

Unfortunately, no nursery holds a complete range of these spring flowering Cardamine species, but if someone would take them on as a National Collection I feel these attractive, easily grown plants could become great British favourites.

There are, however, members of this genus which are only too much in evidence. If you regularly buy container-grown plants, the odds are you have imported the rosetted, hairy bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*), which is one of our most irritating weeds, because it grows quickly and spills its seeds so liberally. It is commonly spread from garden centre or nursery plants and once established it is extremely difficult to get rid of, because the seeds are flung explosively over a long distance. It has a perennial relative, wavy bittercress, characterised by its zig-zag stem and seed pods, held lower than the buds and flowers — but never let it reach this stage. Keep a sharp eye out for the rosettes and remove them before the white flowers go to seed.

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AS LAWNMOWERS, hedge-cutters, shredders and other electrical tools are taken out for use, it is wise to ensure that you have power sockets with a residual current device (RCD), which will protect you from a severe shock, or even death, if the cable is severed. The best-selling PowerBreaker makes simple adaptors (£21.99), integral safety plugs (£24.99) and wall sockets (£38.99). For long, narrow gardens, a waterproof connector is a sensible precaution (£7.99). All available from main high street DIY stores.

Refreshment break: feed crocus bulbs when they finish flowering

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Fill in hollows on lawns: level humps and re-seed where necessary.*
- *Cover seed beds and newly planted seedlings with a layer of spun fleece or clear polythene to give protection from the weather and birds.*
- *Feed spring-flowering bulbs such as crocuses after the blooms have faded.*
- *Begin to feed houseplants.*
- *Feed fruit trees and roses with an all-round fertiliser, if not already done.*

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

We ask people in the public eye to reveal the private fantasies that would turn a weekend into 48 hours of pure magic

PRUE LEITH

Restaurateur and writer

Where would you go?
I have a fantasy about riding through the Atlas mountains on a white Arab horse, seeing the dawn over the desert and sleeping in a tribesman's tent.

How would you get there?
I would fly first class to Marrakesh. I fly an awful lot and always spend the time working. It would be such a luxury to leave my briefcase behind and read a novel by Trollope. I read almost nothing but Trollope. He wrote 47 novels and I just read them in succession. My favourite is *The Warden*. From Marrakesh, it would take about five hours by car to reach the mountains.

Where would you stay?
Different places: at the end of each day, Berber or Moroccan tribesmen would magically appear to set up camp and provide hot water for a shower.

Who would be your perfect companions?
Imaginary people: real ones might get saddle-sores or moan about sleeping on the floor.

What essential piece of clothing would you take?
A Lawrence of Arabia-style jellabah, complete with huge white shawl to keep the wind out of my eyes.

What medicines would accompany you?
Alcohol-rub for weary bones.

What would you have to eat?
Couscous and lamb stew cooked in clay over an open fire, and I'd walk through the orange groves and eat fruit off the trees.

What would you have to drink?
Since this is a Muslim country I would drink Moroccan mint tea most of the time, but there'd be a hidden bottle of claret in my saddlebag for supper-time.

What would you take to read?
Quentin Crewe's book about his desert exploration, *In Search of the Sahara*.

What music would you listen to?
None. Walkmans would be banned.

What would you watch on television?
Nothing.

Would you play any games or sport?
Backgammon with the Berbers.

What luxury would you take?
Perfumed Wet Ones for mopping my sweaty brow, and a blow-up camping mattress.

What piece of art would you like to have there?
An elaborate, antique, Moroccan silver necklace.

Who would be your least welcome guest?
A desert rat.

What three things would you leave behind?
My portable telephone, watch and Walkman.

What three things would you most like to do?
See the sun rise over the desert, the moon rise over the mountains, and gallop flat out across the sands.

Whom would you send a postcard to?
My secretary, who travels the world via her armchair and *National Geographic* magazine.

What souvenir would you bring home?
Saddle sores and blisters.

What would you like to find when you get home?
That my husband had learnt where the tea towels live and how to load the washing machine.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

ACTIVE loving and caring, free professional man (60) seeks model type lady (45-55) as soulmate and to share and enjoy all the best things in life. Many interests including sport and music. Please reply with photo to Box No 8025.

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ATTRACTIVE well educated mature young at heart professional man. Likes sailing, walking, kids, seeks vivacious companion. Reply to Box No 7995

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ESPRIT eloquent charismatic male, moves in high circles, seeks that special cultured lady 28-30 for sincere friendship with a view to marriage. Photo essential, mine in return, please Reply to Box No 7751

FEMALE - Writer/Entrepreneur, 52, West Country based seeks comfortable, civilised male friendship to help her grow old gracefully. International outlook, loves music and painting, history and ideas. Write with photograph to Box No 8007

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I cuddly, n/s, pref male, 38, 5'11", Surrey based, tired of his own company and likes to get out and about) await you chappy, attractive lady 30-40 to reply to Box No 8092. I look forward to your reply.

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Taking French leave turns sour

The recession means there are property bargains in France, **Rachel Kelly** writes — but beware the three candles

It was the story waiting to happen. After years of headlines delighting in the joys of *gites* in the Garonne and the fact that an Englishman's home was fast becoming his château, comes news of empty dreams in foreign lands. The Brits are selling up in France — if they can.

Many can't. The same agents who waxed lyrical about the joys of snapping up property at those oh-so-quaint French prices now talk equally smoothly of the "different time-scale" needed when it comes to selling in France.

"French people are used to having their home on the market for a year or maybe two," Miles Barber of the Fulham estate agents says. "It's never been as fast moving as the British market. Psychologically, the French aren't geared up for it. They take a much more relaxed attitude."

The same is not true of their English counterparts faced with escalating mortgage payments and a farmhouse which they cannot shift for love or French francs.

"Yes, I can see that if you are desperate for money it is a problem," Mr Barber concedes. "People just have to cut their prices."

Paul Parsons has done just that. He first put his traditional stone farmhouse overlooking the Lot valley on the market for £125,000 nine months ago. For all its ten hectares of land, newly established orchard and *potager*, not to mention its swimming pool and spa bath, he has not been able to sell. It is now on the market at £85,000, and that is negotiable.

Mr Parsons has not yet resorted to sale by auction. As in Britain, recessionary France has meant home repossessions. They are advertised in French newspapers for auction by the courts. In the Pas de Calais, where speculators mistakenly gambled on property prices soaring because of the Channel tunnel, there are five such courts. Each auctions roughly ten repossessed properties twice a month.

Typical examples of properties auctioned in the Pas de Calais area recently included a modern three-bedroom bungalow in the countryside near St Omer, about 25 minutes' drive inland of Calais, at £5,000, and a three-bedroom terrace cottage on the outskirts of Lille at £7,000.

An old house in the centre of a village near the Channel tunnel entrance, in good condition, with four bedrooms on three floors and a large garden, sold for £10,000 at a court in St Omer last month — the reserve price was £7,000. And a two-bedroom flat went for £8,000 in Lille, £2,000 more than its reserve.

To a British eye the auction procedure seems worthy of Balzac. Instead of three knocks of the auctioneer's gavel signalling that a sale is going, going, gone, three candles are burnt at 15-second intervals. Each 15-second pause is a chance for a higher bid.

The *huissier*, or bailiff, lights the first candle, announces the reserve price of the property and invites bids. Once the bidding has stopped, a second taper is lit. If there is no response, the ceremony is concluded with the lighting of the "candle of adjudication". All three candles must be lit and extinguished without further bids for another British dream of sipping a *pastis* on one's very own *terrasse* to be born.

Even then the dream can be dashed. French law allows for ten nail-biting days in which the seller is legally allowed to sell at a higher price if a higher bid is made in writing to the court through a barrister. The offer is known as a *surrenchère* and must be at least 10 per cent higher than the auctioned price.

Bargains are plentiful, but agents advise caution to eager buyers in the face of those flickering candles. Buyers must legally complete a sale once it is agreed, so the readies should be in place. It is impossible to make a bid conditional on a survey, for example.

Sellers should avoid auctioning their property if they possibly can. "We would never push a client to sell by auction. They always lose some money. We always advise people to put their home on the market via an agent, if possible," Elizabeth de Maldent, senior manager in charge of lending to foreigners from Credit Agricole in London, says.

Auction action: this nine-bedroom, mini-château south of Lille went under the gavel for £46,000

Hammered: a three-bedroom cottage at St Omer sold for £15,000

Some cannot afford to take Ms de Maldent's advice. Though Mr Parsons is not facing repossession, others are not so lucky. Mr Parsons says those worst hit are the ones who moved lock, stock and with *les enfants* in tow and who have become disillusioned with the French idyll.

"France is a great place to live," he says. "And the normal French people are fine. But the problem comes when you want to set up a business and earn a living. And you can't do that in France, despite all that is said about 1992."

Those trying to earn a living are the ones in trouble now, rather than the holiday homers, Mr Parsons says. "On the whole, those buying holiday homes, if they had their heads screwed on, did not buy a mega-investment. They bought something for £20,000 to £30,000 and may not have got a mortgage in the first place. The people with their backs against the wall are those who bought more expensively to live."

The holiday homers have an escape hatch: letting. David Clancy, from the property company 1992 (071-622 3975), says anyone in trouble with their mortgage should get in touch with him. "My advice to anyone buying in France," he says, "is to build a swimming pool and let the property for a high rental to help them with their mortgages."

The danger is that the horror stories will become as exaggerated as the original hype, Mr Clancy warns. "Journalists have written France up," he says. "Now they are writing France down." The answer, as always, probably lies somewhere in between.

GETTING A GRIP ON THE GAVEL

With prices anything from 25 to 50 per cent below market value, auctions in France are one way in which people can buy a holiday home very cheaply.

Information about forthcoming auction sales can be obtained from the French courts and barristers a few days before the sale. More advance notice of sales cannot be relied upon, because under French law the debtor has until the day before the auction to repay the amount he owes.

Apart from advertisements in French newspapers, little is done to publicise sales. However, any publication of auction sales — under the heading *Vente Sur Saisie Immobilier* — must include the date, time and place, a description of the property, its reserve price and the name and address of the notary dealing with the sale.

For further information about a property, interested buyers can consult the *cahier des charges*, a log book or register kept at the court clerk's office where the auction is to take place.

The buyer must be present at a court auction — accompanied by his French barrister, who will bid for the property on his behalf.

The buyer must sign a document authorising him to do so, stating the maximum amount he is allowed to bid, and pay a deposit of around 10 per cent of the reserve price, which will be refunded if the bid is not successful.

Those intrigued by the low prices should remember to allow 10 per cent on top of the auctioned price to cover legal fees and court costs. As with any property purchase in France, there are still conveyancing costs to pay, so your final bill is likely to be at least 20 per cent higher.

As a consequence of the repossessions, French banks are being more cautious. Alan Guyatt, British mortgage manager for Credit Lyonnais, said French banks are more cautious these days about lending money to British people who want to buy seond homes in France.

"The maximum loan is usually 80 per cent of value, and the bank will carry out a valuation of the property," he says.

Anglo-French agents Ard'Immo, based in the Pas de Calais (681 Avenue de Calais, Ardres, 010 33 21362626), offers a "hand-holding" service to those wanting to buy a property at auction in France, particularly those who are unsure how to go about it and do not speak the language.

It will provide prospective purchasers with particulars of repossession sales and brief details of the properties, including the price, what the location is like and the condition of the property, the address of the lawyer or notary, and the deadline.

The fee for this service — paid by the purchaser, at 10 per cent of the sale price — includes guiding prospective purchasers through the auction process, meeting them at the ferry port and taking them to view selected properties prior to auction, accompanying them on the day of the sale and helping them through the court formalities.

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Notice of a repossession sale

The same agents also take on repossessed properties for sale at reduced prices and will send lists on request.

On its books is a restored three-bedroom terrace cottage in Lille at £10,000, and a modern four-bedroom house with half an acre, plus double-glazing and central heating, at £28,000, close to the Channel tunnel entrance.

CHERYL TAYLOR

Poetic justice done

Home from home: Mary Henderson

The original letter in which William Wordsworth wrote: "I often ask myself what will become of Rydal Mount after our day", is framed and hung in the hall of his family home in the Lake District.

The present owner is Mrs Mary Henderson, great-great-granddaughter of the poet laureate, who in 1969 bought the house which Wordsworth rented for 37 years.

As two of the poet's other homes — Dove Cottage, where he lived for nine years, and Wordsworth House, Cockermouth, his home for 12 years — were both open to the public, Mrs Henderson felt Rydal Mount should not be overlooked.

"When my husband and I saw the house, it was an absolute shambles and bitterly cold," she says. Today, however, it is a family home first, and open to visitors second.

Mrs Henderson says the conversion was not a "wholly philanthropic" venture. She received the keys on December 16, 1969, less than four months before the bicentenary of Wordsworth's birth, for which many celebrations were planned.

"It made a difference if we could open on April 7, when there were terrific high jinks in the Lake District," she says. "But before then there was so much to be done. Almost the day before there were still ladders up the front of the house, paint brushes inside."

The roof was replaced, the house rewired, the plumbing modernised to accommodate central heating and washbasins in the bedrooms and internal alterations made to create a curator's flat. They spent at least as much again as the £18,000 purchase price on essential repairs.

Many of the fine pictures and some of the furniture now in the house belonged to Wordsworth, and had been passed down through generations to Mrs Henderson, her sister and two brothers. They include a portrait of Wordsworth after he was made poet laureate, painted by the American artist Henry Inman in 1844, and the only portrait ever painted of his sister Dorothy, done in 1833. Both hang in the elegant drawing-room, which has views over the garden and Windermere.

Upstairs, one of three first-floor bedrooms open to the public has portraits of Queen Victoria and the Prince of Wales, presented to Wordsworth by the Queen. His study was created in one of the attics.

"I like to think he would be pleased with the house," Mrs Henderson says. "A visitor once said there would never have been washbasins in the bedrooms, but I like to think if Wordsworth had been here today, it's exactly the sort of thing he would have done."

BARRY GREENWOOD

Poetic heritage: Mary Henderson, Wordsworth's great-great-granddaughter, outside Rydal Mount

She is happy about the visitors, too, who have increased from 10,000 to 45,000 annually, which each year include new nationalities.

This Tuesday around 50 specially-invited guests will attend a birthday commemoration evening at Rydal Mount, including readings of the poet's work.

Queen Adelaide, widow of William IV, visited the house in July 1840 and the young Wordsworths enjoyed visits from the children of Samuel Coleridge and Thomas Arnold, of whom Matthew Arnold was to be the most celebrated.

The house is a major venture and is a great deal of hard work, Mrs Henderson says. Although she has a competent staff of curators and guides, she writes the guide book and chooses the books and mementoes to be sold in the house. When she is at Rydal, she also gives visitors an introductory talk and regales them with anecdotes.

Mrs Henderson thinks of Rydal Mount as her second home — she has a private kitchen, living-room, sitting-room and bedroom in the house — and as a project.

Although she is a keen gardener at her home in Winchelsea, East Sussex, the four and a half acres at Rydal Mount are kept much as they were in Worsworth's day.

Only the lawns are no longer in pristine condition, and a typed note pinned to the front door apologises for their state. The garden has attracted a colony of badgers who, in foraging for food, have damaged the grass.

Her two daughters and four grandchildren, who all live in the south, visit regularly and often spend Christmas at Rydal Mount.

"They all love Rydal Mount. We never look on the visitors as an intrusion, but on the odd occasion when it's just family, it's absolute heaven."

LYNNE GREENWOOD

Where salmon leap

HOUSE HUNTER

The Store House Snowdonia

If every angler's secret dream is to have a salmon river at the bottom of his garden, the Store House, standing in a cusp of the magnificent Mawddach estuary in Snowdonia, will make it come true.

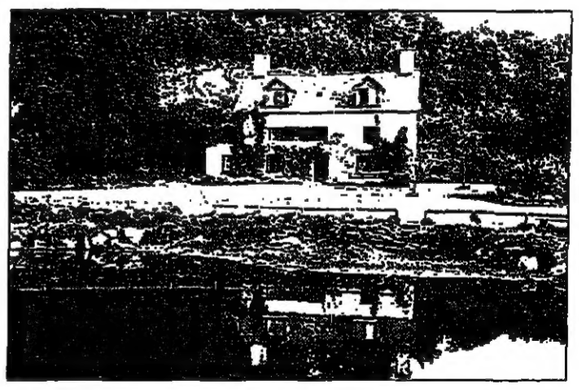
The Wnion flows just a few yards from the back door of this stone-built house, which dates back to the 1600s. Just across the lawn lies a 25ft deep holding pool where the fish, journeying upstream, take a rest, packing as closely as the Sunday morning congregations in this still staunchly chapel part of Wales.

The sale of the Store House offers salmon, sea trout and trout fishing rights, which rarely come on the market in the Snowdonia National Park area.

Serious eccentrics abound in the tall tales of salmon fishing. A holidaying High Court judge wearing only pyjamas once caught a record fish before breakfast at the Store House. It is entirely possible to sit up in bed, look out of the window, glimpse the broad back of a fish and catch it.

This is why several stout fishing rods, always tackled up with line, fly and spinners, are customarily stored on the oak beams of the main living-room.

Those black beams, pickled with age into a granite hardness, have been there since the Store House was part of a busy shipping industry served by the navigable Wnion.



Fish tales: Store House has one and a half miles of prime fishing

Although local archives reveal that the Store House used to be the cramped home of two large families, it has recently been modernised. It is one mile from the market town of Dolgellau.

The low-beamed main living-room has a stone fireplace with a large picture window overlooking the garden and the river. The similarly beamed dining-room/kitchen is fully-fitted with custom-built pine units. There is a door, concealed by fitted shelves, that leads to a prospective first-floor extension. A study has recently been fitted out for computer equipment.

The main bedroom also overlooks the Mawddach estuary and its surrounding mountains. This has an *en suite* shower-room. The second bedroom shares the same stunning view from a window seat.

There is also a self-contained, double-bedroom holiday flat on the rear garden level, which brings in a steady income during the fishing season.

The large slate patio outside the back door leads on to more than an acre of herbaceous plants, rockeries and decorative trees. A lovely garden, which has been designed to give year-round colour and an abundance of fruit and vegetables, includes a paddock, duck pond, dovecote and a four-berth caravan ... all on 200 metres fronting the Wnion.

The owner admits the dovecote and its brief occupation by some fantails was, with hindsight, a bit of a mistake, for there are ten peregrine falcon nests in the locality. The doves were methodically taken by the peregrines within a couple of days.

So whoever buys the Store House will have to make do with its more or less resident fish and fowl. Last year a pair of kingfishers, which nest on the opposite bank, had three clutches. Eighteen herons nest on the other side of the house; they, too, are keen on fish.

With such an abundance of skilful competition, it is a wonder how human anglers have any success at all. But they do: the testament to this are in the outlines of huge salmon and trout etched into the slate slabs which make up a garden barbecue area.

When this graphic idea of recording prize catches first began, the minimum weight of a qualifying fish was 10lb. But this has had to be increased, as the slate was being used up too quickly.

The Store House's owner has taken a 25lb salmon from the holding pool at the bottom of his garden. His best sea trout was a mere 18.25lb.

GARETH PARRY

● *Strutt and Parker's Chester office (0244 320747) expects the Store House with its two-rod (mostly double-bank) fishing rights on more than one and a half miles of the Wnion to attract offers in the region of £165,000.*

Too many slates short of a decent roof

Heap of the week: Stinsford, Dorset

DORSET manors have long been the beau ideal of the English country house, so the present condition of Stinsford is tragic. The main front consists of no more than a tall *piano nobile* over a low basement, rather like a Portuguese *quinta*.

Until about six years ago Stinsford was a school. It was then sold several times, but is now in the hands of a bank and the agents are looking for offers. Planning permission has been granted both for a hotel and for seven residential units in the house. Further planning permission to build four houses in the grounds has expired, but West Dorset District Council would probably ressurrect it to aid a reasonable scheme.

The house is in what should be an idyllic position. The front looks south over a formal garden descending in terraces and enclosed by walls; presumably the original layout of around 1700. Walk through a garden door to the east and you are immediately in the graveyard of the fine medieval parish church with a headstone to Thomas Hardy.

The entrance front looks west along a fine avenue ... and, unfortunately, the new Dorchester by-pass.

Though the chief constable lives just 50 yards away, large areas of the roof slates have been stripped and the floors are sodden with damp. At one time squatters occupied it.

It has been suggested that the tall main floor was rebuilt after a fire in the early 19th century, as the long sash windows are set above stone basement mullions. But inside, at least one of the rooms has the remains of narrow, fielded panelling of 1700 character, so it could be all of a piece.

The house has about six acres, and if you imagine a few cascades of rambler roses and some neat box hedges, it is easy to visualise what a romantic place it could become. Restored it could either be one large house, or the individual wings could be adapted as self-contained family houses. The extended H-plan ensures these need not overlook one another.

Stinsford is tucked away from the road through the village and behind a farm, and marches with magnificent baroque Kingston Maurward, with its superb grounds now tended by the Dorset College of Agriculture.

MARCUS BINNEY

● *Full information: Goadsby and Harding (0202 299300).*

Wrecked: squatters and thieves made the house uninhabitable

HOW TO BOOK

IF YOU have collected five of the six differently numbered tokens printed in *The Times* each day this week, you can make a reservation by phone immediately. Or, you may save the tokens and booking form to use later on. Bookings must be made, and accommodation taken, before September 9, 1992.

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● **For overseas,** phone 081-780 1155, quoting T1 Europe. Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat 9am-1am.

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● **Children:** In the UK, up to two children under 16 stay free when sharing their parents' room (if a suitable room is available). Meals are charged as taken (breakfast at UK hotels costs £5 a child). Children's rooms in the UK cost £14 a child a night, including breakfast. Children's discounts are not available at the Balmer Lawn Hotel, London Hilton on Park Lane or Langham Hilton. For details of arrangements for children at Continental hotels, please enquire at the time of booking.

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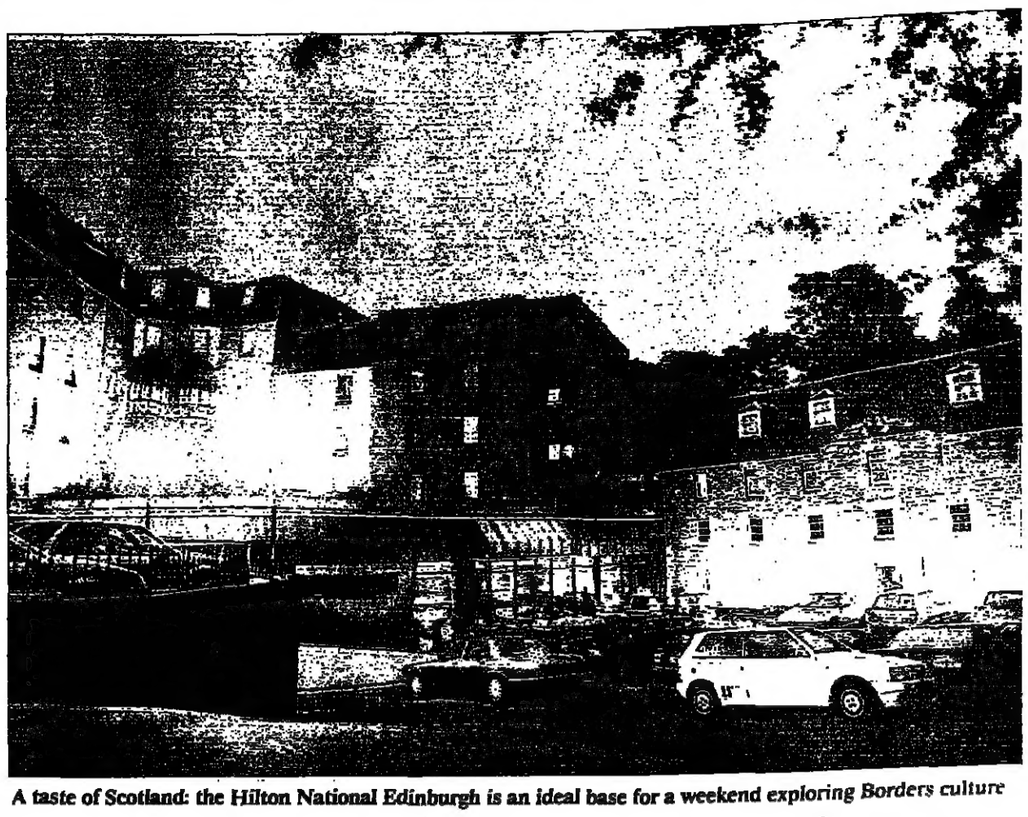

A taste of Scotland: the Hilton National Edinburgh is an ideal base for a weekend exploring Borders culture

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For UK weekend breaks, please send completed coupon, your deposit of £10 per guest and five differently numbered *Times*/Hilton tokens to:
The Times Offer, Hilton UK, PO Box 137, Watford, Herts WD1 1DN

For Continental breaks, please send completed coupon and and five differently numbered *Times*/Hilton tokens to:
The Times Offer, European Weekend Breaks, Hilton Reservation Service, 93-99 Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 2TG

Weekend breaks in Britain and on the Continent

● *Prices for Hilton hotels offering a 25 per cent discount to readers of* The Times:

LONDON

★ Hilton on Park Lane	£63.75
★ Langham Hilton	£63.75
Mews Hilton	£45.00
‡ Sherlock Holmes Hotel	£43.50
★ Kensington Hilton	£45.00
★ Regents Park Hilton	£45.00

AROUND LONDON

Royal Berkshire, Ascot	£48.75
Hilton National, Cobham	£45.00

NATIONWIDE

Hilton National, Bath	£51.00
Hilton National, Newport	£36.00
‡ Linton Lodge, Oxford	£40.50
Hilton National, Warwick	£48.00
‡ Balmer Lawn, Brockenhurst	£45.00

● *Prices for hotels offering 50 per cent off:*

LONDON

★ ‡ Plaza on Hyde Park	£29.00
London Olympia Hilton, West Kensington	£30.00
Hilton National Wembley	£27.00
‡ The Clive Hotel, Hampstead	£27.00

AROUND LONDON

★ London Gatwick Airport Hilton	£27.00
Hilton National Hornchurch	£21.00
Hilton National Watford	£25.00

NATIONWIDE

Bristol Hilton	£30.00
Hilton Lodge, Basingstoke	£21.50
Hilton National, Bracknell	£25.00
Hilton National Newbury	£28.00
Hilton National Coventry (opens July)	£25.00
Hilton National Edinburgh	£35.00
Hilton National East Midlands	£27.50
Pennine Hilton National	£27.00
Hilton National Leeds Garforth	£27.00
Leeds Hilton	£27.00
Hilton National Livingston, Lothian	£24.00
Manchester Airport Hilton	£29.00
Hilton National Portsmouth	£30.00
Hilton National Southampton	£30.00
Hilton National Swansea	£23.00

★ *UK hotels with single supplements*
‡ *Associate hotels*

■ *All rates are valid from April 4 until September 9, 1992, and are per person per night based on two people sharing a twin/double room for a minimum two-night stay (which must include Saturday night). Prices include full English breakfast and VAT at 17.5 per cent.*

● *Hotels in Europe offering two nights for the price of one at standard midweek rates. Prices are approximate £ sterling conversion.*

AUSTRIA

Vienna Hilton	£45.50
Vienna Plaza	£69.00

BELGIUM

Brussels Hilton	£40.00

EGYPT

Nile Hilton, Cairo	£30.50
Ramses Hilton, Cairo	£27.50

FRANCE

Paris Orly Airport Hilton	£36.50
Paris Hilton	£56.50
Noga Hilton, Cannes	£69.50
Strasbourg Hilton	£37.00

GERMANY

Berlin Hilton (Krone Wing)	from £38.50
Dusseldorf Hilton	£33.00
Munich City Hilton	£35.50
Munich Park Hilton	£35.50

Floral: Dusseldorf Hilton

GREECE

Athens Hilton	£44.00

HUNGARY

Budapest Hilton	£38.50

ITALY

Rome Cavalieri Hilton	£53.50
Milan Hilton	£58.50

SPAIN

Barcelona Hilton (except during Olympics)	£46.50

SWITZERLAND

Basel Hilton	£35.00
Noga Hilton, Geneva	£54.00
Zurich Kloten Airport Hilton	£31.00

THE NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam Hilton	£45.50
Schiphol Airport Hilton, Amsterdam	£35.50
Rotterdam Hilton	£33.00

TURKEY

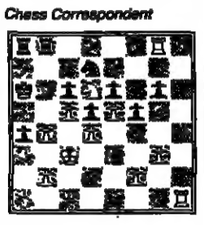
Ankara Hilton	£31.00
Istanbul Hilton	£45.50
Parksa Hilton, Istanbul	£34.50
Izmir Hilton	£31.00
Mersin Hilton	£23.50

● *Prices shown are for each guest for each night (minimum two nights between Friday and Sunday) and are based on two people sharing a twin/double room. Full breakfast included. For all European bookings, payment is made in the local currency on departure from the hotel.*

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

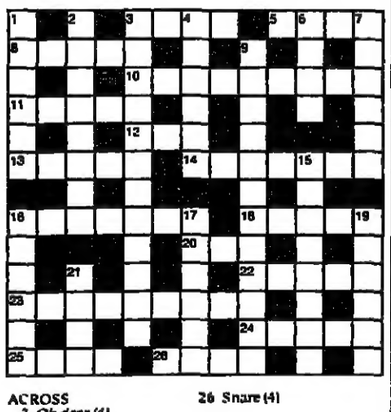
This year has been officially designated "Alekhine Year", in celebration of the great world champion who was born 100 years ago. This week we shall continue to feature positions from his games. Today's position is from the game Alekhine — Chajes, Carlsbad 1923. How did white finish off?



Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Batsford chess book. The answer and the winners will be printed in *The Times* on the following Saturday.

Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 d7. The winners are: G.E. Smith, Moreton Morrell; R.R. Simpson, Cumbernauld; A. Riley, Cheadle Hulme.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2757



ACROSS
3 Oh dear (4)
5 Fall (4)
8 Stir (5)
10 Infamy (9)
11 Parent's brother (5)
12 Soil scraper (3)
13 Divine apparatus (5)
14 Derision (7)
16 Pure Round Table knight (7)
18 Fork point (5)
20 Gasp (3)
22 Restless (5)
23 Principal angel (9)
24 Combined (2,3)
25 Tale (4)
26 Snare (4)

DOWN
1 Lookouts (6)
2 On time (8)
3 Shakespeare's wife (4,8)
4 National song (6)
6 Witwatersrand (4)
7 Wages time (6)
9 Queen Elizabeth's husband (6,6)
15 Mannish hairstyle (4,4)
16 Milky Way system (6)
17 England/Denmark sandbank (6)
19 Hot steam spring (6)
21 Wound mark (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 2756

ACROSS: 1 Stitch 5 Jaded 8 Ego 9 Gurkha 10 Kidnap 11 Idol 12 Straight 14 Treaty 15 Casing 16 St George 18 Duel 19 Quorum 21 Enjoin 22 Man 23 Kitty 24 Tablet

DOWN: 2 Thunderstruck 3 Take leave 4 Hearsay 5 Joker 6 Dad 7 Death in Venice 13 Inside job 15 Clement 17 Rummy 20 Rat

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BEGBIE We are looking for descendants of Robert and Charlotte Begbie, Ayrshire, Scotland in 1830 a lawyer. Please contact J Begbie, Fitzgerald Road RD1, Drury, N Zealand

GLYNDEBOURNE 4 tickets. Peter Grimes. Row B stalls, Saturday 20th June 1992. Wish to exchange for 4 similar tickets any date in first 2 weeks June. Tel 061 722 9482 (eve/w end)

MR & MRS EVANS. We are manufacturing special 14 carat Gold Signet Rings set with the EVANS surname rebus insignia in rose gold containing rare Welsh Gold or set in platinum. Telephone 0492 534 763 for details anytime

WELCH Congratulations Mum and Dad on your Golden Wedding anniversary. love from Malcolm Derek, Elaine, Sarah and David

STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

BARGAIN For sale, Cosmo Rental Piano. Only £30 pm. Terry 071 455 4509 (work)

BBC Model B computer, disk drive, games, books, mags, manual and V.T.S. 081 346 0929

BMW 320 (1979 Nov) Blue seats A/c Cass other parts Tel (0734) 868626

BUSINESS A finance student requires Summer Vacation work. Hurley 0632 621165

DESPERATELY seeking relief. Also bedsit for. Please help poor student. Tim 081 670 2714

EASTER Holidays etc Beautiful Devon Cottage Bed Breakfast Self Catering Sleeps 4 Tel Tavistock 0822 614180

ECONOMICS Student third year seeks employment during summer 1992 Tel 0388 718472

JAMES Happy Birthday Love Fiona Xxx

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Desperately seeking Nessie...

In all shapes and sizes we offer them to munch
But we have many and we'll spoil your lunch
Send us a completed our task with success
We'll send to the ships with a piece
Buy one of Nessie's cheap
Watch out for the crumbs, and apply to our dishes

STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENGAGEMENT. Adam Martin to Marina Woolley. God is Faithful to his promises

ENTHUSIASTIC keen dependable young man seeks summer employment (0811 881 5018.

FANTASTIC student house Manchester needs 1 more student Sept 92 Tel Ben 061 224 8893.

FARAH, Karim Eid-Mubarak! Happy returns on first Eid together! Love Zaffara

FOR sale Schweinmayer (Stuttgart) 5'6" piano no 125916 immac. £6,000 ono. (0811 954 3342

G.M.P. Heartiest congratulations mon Dad Bless You. love you G M A

GORDON, Sarah Happy 2nd anniversary wishing for many more. love always Peter

GRAD with Japanese-speaking fluent English Polish Arabic seeks employ. Fax 081 997 2799

ITALIAN Leather three pce suite for sale £700 ono Excellent condition (071 223 7351

JAN and Nick. Good luck for July. Look after yourselves. Stay solid Jn

L.L.B(1) seeks vacation work in legal environment W/L Mid lands/London (081) 674 0925

LEWIS Fiance and Keith Happy Silver Wedding Anniversary. love Andrew and Beth

LONDON Lost underwater Russian research expedition seeks training details 0784 433514

MARBLE Shaver Tray. Cost horrible bargain Phone Tim 051 260 7390

NEVILLE Surprise seventh eight hot out Happy Birthday Grandpa All the family

PEUGEOT 205 Xs 1989 Cream dr 29 000 alarm lux mol. £5 500 (071) 735 7013

QUEEN Concert one ticket only. Phone Brian on (081) 540 6868

RADIO Controlled Aeroplane for sale with everything, reluctant sale £300 (061) 236 3471

SARAH Jamie. I love you Happy Birthday love from Alan xxx

SINGLE Room in large flat Bayswater/Park. Suit prof person. £90 (0811 748 5406

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONY Personal D.A.T. Player digital audio tape! £275. cost £480. (0622) 672585

STUDENT requ summer work in retail organisation in N/West Phone Rai 0928-716116.

UNDERGRAD seeks employment during summer vacation in East Midlands Tel: (0533) 539964

WANTED sponsorship for Nottingham Uni rugby tour. Please help. Ring (03621) 693528.

"WE won't fail"

WHAT was that Mum? It's your birthday?! All my love Matthew.

BIRTHDAYS

TER' Happy 30th Birthday! Hope the Swans win Today! All my love, Cath

SERVICES

WHEN in London rent a video TV by day, week, month Quick reliable Top TV 071 720 7581.

ANNIVERSARIES

BURKETT - To Nan and Grandad. Congratulations on reaching 50 years. Lots of Love, Daryl and Carol xx.

WANTED

CAVIAR or Sturgeon Any fairly fashion mother Or photographs. Please Reply to Box No 7992 to help private research

FOR SALE

TICKETS FOR SALE

When responding to advertisements, readers are advised to establish the face value and full details of tickets before entering into any commitment.

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper. Original. Superb presentations. Open 7 days a week. Freephone 0800 181803

ACQUIRE tickets All theatre & sporting events The London Connection 081 569 9914

BECHSTEIN Upright piano. Rosewood, reconditioned. £1,450. Tel 0273 486104

BIRTHDAY DUE? Original Times for the very day Tel. 0492 531195

GLYNDEBURNE Cost 5 May swap Cat Q Saddle any date 4 Tik £65. 0883 624155

OLD & NEW York, French, & personal stone fireplaces, floor tiles, stone troughs, Victorian brick, cobble sets etc Nationwide delivery 0360 850059 (Wilts)

18, 21, 25, 40, 50, 60, 70 80th. For the very special occasion The Day Book 029 50 4 p&p News Archives (0732) 63596

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

BABY GRAND Piano Cramer Good condition New Horse £750 Tel 0727 863611

GIFTS

THE PERFECT GIFT freesias and chocolate, delivered anywhere in the UK. Telphone. Worldwide Flowers. (0342) 300787 Seven Days a Week.

SELF-CATERING

ELECTION CANCELLATION by concerned politico. Stunning Villa nr St Tropez available 11 24 April. Own beach. Tennis + Grounds. Slps 6-8. Call 071-351 0960

FLATSHARE

BATTERSEA Nr Park Dble rm. N/S FF kit. W/M Own bath. C£50pw or 2 F sharers £50pw. 071 248 9447/0860 804541.

CHELSEA Cheyne Place Professional, n/s, 10 mins Sloane Sq. to share luxury flat with young lawyer. £98 pw 0694 724046

CHISWICK Own R/M int house. N/S Nr tube/ bus £300 pcm inc bills. 081-747 9938 eves

FULHAM. Babysitting lodger (3 eves pw) Own rm & bath, sh kit. £50pw incl 071-731 6814

ISLINGTON, Inc bright room in immaculate luxurious house. Close to city and West End. All amenities. £350pcm. certainly c.Tel. 071 249 6127.

SOUTH Ken Lux flat, 1 large lovely room, 1 prof. £120pw Tel. 071 823 8085

WANDSWORTH COMM Prof person to share beautiful, spacious, sunny flat. Own dbl rm & bthrm V close to local amenities & BR. 10 mins Victoria £326pcm excl. 081 673 8414.

WANDSWORTH COMMON o'king. South Rd Avail now. Dble rm for one N/s. 3/c mins + ? £75 pw incl. 081 877 0806

WEYBRIDGE, Coom Park 1 dble bedrm ensuite bathrm. in house £275 pm 0932 858587

RENTALS

ACCOMMODATION Legally req for City Institutions. Call us with your properties to let Sebastian Estates 071 381 4988

AN Ex Diplomats W1/Mayfair furn/unfurn 4 bed 2 bath 2 rec gdn plus £495pw 071 724 3611

BARNSBURY, N1 Delightful fully furnished 2 bed, 2 bath flat in Georgian house with secluded garden. Completely refurbished by interior designer 5 minutes from Vic forta line + City BR line station. £220 pw Tel 071 607 1126.

BATTERSEA PARK F/F, s/c 2 room flat, suit prof bachelor with amenities to pid up guests £110pw inc Ch/hw & cleaning 071 622 9642

BATTERSEA SW11 spacious furnished 3 bed flat in Victorian Mansion block adj to Battersea Park £1,000pcm 071 498 3632

BLOOMSBURY/Covent Garden WC1 superb 2 dble bedrm duplex apt top of Georgian Town House. Presently refurbished C330pw No agents Ben Southgate 071 436 7106

CHELSEA Immaculate, stunning 2 bed diners flat. £260pw. Tel Anton 071 727 8080

CHELSEA Lge lux gdn flat 2 beds, 2 baths Short med let £275pw. Tel:071 370 3644

CLAPHAM COMMON Superb furnished flat, suit couple, good transport, all amenities. £140pw. 071 585 1430

DOCKLANDS Lux 3 bed lux hse. C.H. garage, fully equipped, nr Surrey Quays Lr & Tube. £200 pw 071 732 6399

DULWICH Village wanted, Short let, furnished accommodation for Doctor & wife. from 1st June. Reply to Box No 8033.

FULHAM s/c studio, own entrance, sep bath. C.H. own phone 2 mins tube £100pw Tel: 071 384 2282.

HAMPSTEAD Orchard Mews! furn 3 bed flat, 2 baths, all conveniences, resident caretaker. £220pw 081 691 8999 day or 081 852 0548 after 8pm.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE 2 bed Vgnlist Silver Recep £250 pw 071 584 2988 or 0860 923141.

NOTTING HILL Bright basement flat 2 bed, 1 bath, large private garden. £220 pw incl Tel 071 792 9130

OVINGTON SQUARE 1 bed lux flat, lovely views over gardens £190pw. Burgess 081 5136

PIMLICO F/F 2 dble bed gnd flr flat, lge recep, ff kit ensuite bath, use gdn sq W. BR/Vic 111 Lxcep quiet 081 940 7064

PUTNEY M/F Prof, 30+ N/S to share lge attractive mansion flat tennis etc nr tube/ BR, lge dble £70pw excl. 081 877 0870

SLOANE Street. 2 bed flat with porter ideal for quiet professional £250 pw 071 738 1960

SOUTH KENSINGTON Superb location 2 bed 1st flr flat. Elegant furn f/f kit f/f. Dble gdns 5 mins tube. Well maintained £335 pw 071 820 0641

W4 s/c lux flat, 2 dble bedrms, close to tube Barnes £695 pcm. 081 747 0566

SPORTING EVENTS

LEGAL NOTICES

ROTON MARINE SERVICES LIMITED

(In Members' Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company are required, on or before 31 April 1992, to send their names, and addresses and particulars of their debts in the undersigned, the liquidator of the said company at First A Young, Beckel House, 7 Bolt Building London EC4A 1NH on 23 April 1992 at 10.30 am for the purposes mentioned in S.84(2) and S.85 of that Act

Creditors who claim are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting

Creditors who intend to vote at the meeting should note the following

(a) Written statements of claim must be lodged with the administrative receivers at First A Young, Beckel House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU by 12 noon on the day before the meeting

(b) Proxies for use at the meeting must also be lodged with the administrative receivers

Date 31/3/92

T C Carter and W M Roberts
Joint Administrative Receivers

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

Gardner Wilkinson Distribution Limited

(In Administrative Receivership)

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986 at First A Young, Beckel House, 7 Bolt Buildings, London EC4A 1NH on 23 April 1992 at 10.30am for the purposes mentioned in S48(2) and S49 of that Act.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting

Creditors who intend to vote at the meeting should note the following.

(a) Written statements of claim must be lodged with the administrative receivers at First A Young, Beckel House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU by 12 noon on the day before the meeting

(b) Proxies for use at the meeting must also be lodged with the administrative receivers

Date 31/3/92

T C Carter and W M Roberts
Joint Administrative Receivers

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

Gardner Wilkinson Group Limited

(In Administrative Receivership)

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Date 31/3/92

T C Carter and W M Roberts
Joint Administrative Receivers

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

Gardner Wilkinson Holdings Limited

(In Administrative Receivership)

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Date 31/3/92

T C Carter and W M Roberts
Joint Administrative Receivers

Your guide to the week's viewing

THIS WEEKEND

SATURDAY

BBC1

6.35am Open University 7.25 News; Weather 7.30 Crystal Tipps and Alistair 7.35 Wiz Bang 7.45 Bravestarr 8.05 Eggs 'n' Baker 8.35 Thundercats 9.00 Going Live! 12.12 Weather 12.15 Grandstand. Today's line-up includes (subject to alteration). 1.00 News; 1.30 The toss; 1.45, 2.20 and 3.05 Racing from Aintree; 2.35 Boat Race: Oxford v Cambridge; 3.20 Grand National build-up, 4.00 Grand National from Aintree, 4.20 The re-run, 4.40 Final Score 5.10 News, Weather 5.25 Regional News; Sport 5.30 Cartoon 5.40 Jim'll Fix It 6.15 Big Break 6.45 Film. Any Which Way You Can (1980). Clint Eastwood is again upstaged by Clyde the orang-utan 8.30 On The Up 9.00 News; Campaign Report; Weather 9.30 Casualty 10.20 The 1992 Martell Grand National 10.40 Film: The Lion Of Africa (1987) Brian Dennehy and Brooke Adams on a dangerous journey through Kenya 12.25am Watch What Happens. . Tony Bennett 1.15 Weather

BBC2

6.40am Open University 3.00 Mahabharat 3.40 Animation Now 3.45 Film: Friendly Persuasion (1956) starring Gary Cooper and Dorothy McGuire A Quaker father and son are forced to reconsider their pacifist principles during the American civil war 5.55 Late Again 6.40 News; Sport; Weather 6.55 Rembrandt with Kenneth Clark: The self-portraits 7.25 The Life And Works. An elderly writer is thrown back into notoriety when one of her novels is re-issued 8.30 Film: Diner (1982) Mickey Rourke and Ellen Barkin are among a group of friends who hang out together in the 1950s 10.15 Fine Cut 11.50 Film: Kanchenjungha. A holiday encounter between a wealthy industrialist and a young unemployed man. Directed by Satyajit Ray 1.30am Close

WORLD SERVICE TV

9.00am Music Time 9.20 Blue Peter 9.45 Little Sir Nicholas 10.10 Melvin And Maureen's Music-a-Grams 10.25 Maid Marian And Her Merry Men 10.50 Top Of The Pops 11.20 The Clothes Show 11.55 Tomorrow's World 12.25 Gardeners' World 12.55 Top Gear 1.30 Grandstand 4.10 BBC News From London 5.25 World News Week 5.55 Motorcycle Man 6.05 Jim'll Fix It 6.40 Big Break 7.10 Only Fools And Horses 8.00 BBC World Service News 8.30 Us Girls 9.00 The Nicholas Craig Masterclass 9.20 Timewatch 10.10 Young Musician Of The Year 10.50 Sports Roundup 11.55 Close

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Stories Without Words 6.30 Cartoons 7.00 Simon In The Land Of Chalk Drawings 7.30 Once Upon A Time . . . Life 8.00 Story Break 8.30 Galaxy High School 9.00 Captain N 10.00 Spiderwoman 11.00 The New Adventures Of He-Man 12.00 The Job 1.00 Adventure 2.00 Stories Without Words 2.30 Simon In The Land Of Chalk Drawings 3.00 The Care Bears Family 4.00 Galaxy High School 5.00 All Change 6.00 Story Break 7.00 Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Greatest Adventure 5.00 Africa: The Bible And The Gun 6.00 High Five 6.30 Camera 7.00 Hollywood Chronicles 7.30 Shadows In The Forest 8.00 Search For Adventure 9.00 Nylon Blues 10.00 Beats Of The Heart 11.00 Carriers 11.30 Exotic Races 12.00 Close

EUROSPORT

8.00am International Motorsport 9.00 Equestrian 10.00 Motor Racing 11.00 Motor Racing Formula One Practice, Brazil 12.00 Saturday Alive 1.30 Tennis ATP Tour 4.00 Diving: European Cups from Milan 5.00 Live Motor Racing Formula One Grand Prix 6.00 International Motorsport 7.00 Tennis ATP Tour 9.00 Live Boxing 10.00 Tennis ATP Tour 11.30 Motor Racing. Formula One Practice, Brazil 12.00 Close

LIFESTYLE

12.00noon Rambo 12.30 Spiral Zone 1.00 Flash Gordon 1.30 African Wave 1.55 Formula 1 2.50 Spain Spain Holiday 3.05 He Shoots, He Scores 4.00 Film. Captain Power 5.30 Burns & Allen 6.00 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 10.00 Jukebox Music Videos 2.00 Last Jukebox Dance 3.00 Close

MTV

7.00am VJ Rebecca De Ruvo 10.00 The Big Picture 10.30 US Top 20 Video Countdown 12.30 XPO 1.00 VJ Ray Cokes 4.00 Yo! MTV Raps 5.00 Week In Rock 5.30 The Big Picture 6.00 European Top 20 8.00 Saturday Night Live 9.00 Party Zone 12.00 VJ Kristiane Becker 2.00 Night Videos

RTL

6.10am Cubitus 6.35 Piff Und Herkules 7.00 Konfetti 8.15 Klack 9.10 New Kids On The Block 9.35 Peter Pan 10.00 Marvel Universum 11.35 Michel Vaillant 12.05 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles 12.30 American Gladiators 1.35 Adam 12 – Einsatz in LA 2.05 Das A-Team 3.55 Der Preis Ist Heiss 4.45 Formel 1 – Training 5.05 Inside Bunte 5.45 RTL Aktuell 6.15 Full House 7.15 Film: Treffpunkt Todesbrucke 9.5 Wie Bitte 10.10 Film: Bei Anruf Liebe 1.00 Männermagazin M 1.30 Film: Bei Anruf Liebe 4.30 Captain Power 5.00 Peter Pan 5.25 Die Flintstone Kids 5.40 New Kids On The Block

SCREENSPORT

6.30am IMSA GTP 1992 7.30 NBA Action 1992 8.00 DTM German Touring Cars 8.45 Golf Report 9.00 Dunhill Golf 10.00 Pro Kick 11.00 Gillette World Sports Special 11.30 NBA Basketball 1991/92 1.00 Rowing 2.00 Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 4.00 Dunhill Golf 5.00 World League Of US Football 8.00 Family Circle Cup Tennis 1992 10.00 US PGA Tour 1992 11.30 Family Circle Cup Tennis 1992 1.00 Top Rank Boxing 2.30 NHL Ice Hockey 4.30 International Showjumping 5.30 Faszination Motorsport 5.59 Close

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise 9.30 Nightline 10.30 Our World 11.00 Dayline 11.30 Newsline Weekend 12.30 Those Were The Days 1.30 Holiday Destinations 2.30 Fashion TV 3.30 Those Were The Days 4.30 Our World 5.00 Live At Five 6.30 Newsline Weekend 7.30 Fashion TV 8.30 Holiday Destinations 10.30 Newsline Weekend 11.30 Fashion TV 12.30 Holiday Destinations 1.30 Newsline Weekend 2.30 Our World 3.30 Target 4.30 Those Were The Days 5.30 Target

TV5

6.00am French Television News 6.20 Corps Accord 6.40 Méthode Victor 6.55 Clin D'Oeil 7.00 Canadian TV News 7.20 Affiches 7.25 Flash TV5 7.30 Nord-Sud 8.00 Québec Inc 8.30 Le Club D'Enjeu 9.00 Les Grands Criminels 10.00 Les Aventures De La Liberté 11.00 Flash TV5 11.05 Reflets, Images D'Ailleurs 12.00 French Television News 12.15 Horizon '93 1.00 Divan 1.30 A Nous Les Beaux Dimanches 2.25 Magellan 2.45 Science Cartoon 3.05 TV5 News 3.15 Flash Varicelle 3.45 Génies En Herbe 4.00 Felix 4.40 Radio 21 5.15 Correspondance 5.30 TV5 News; Weather 5.50 Affiches 5.55 Clin D'Oeil 6.00 Auto-Vision 6.30 Belgian Television News 7.00 Thalassa 8.00 French Television News; Weather 8.30 A Nous Les Beaux Dimanches 9.30 Caractères 10.45 French Television News 11.05 Ramdam 11.20 Close

SUNDAY

BBC1

6.45am Open University 8.50 Playdays 9.10 News; Weather 9.15 Looking For God 10.00 See Hear! 10.30 The Trojan Mouse 11.00 Country File 11.25 Weather 11.30 Cartoon 11.45 Match of the Day. Liverpool v Portsmouth 2.00 EastEnders. Omnibus edition 3.00 Match of the Day. Norwich v Sunderland 5.30 Cartoon 5.50 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em 6.25 News; Weather 6.40 Village Praise 7.15 May To December 7.45 Lovejoy 9.30 Screaming 10.00 Party Election Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats 10.10 News, Campaign Report, Weather 10.35 Mastermind 11.05 Heart of the Matter 11.40 The Vote Race 12.20am The Sky At Night 12.40 Mahabharat 1.20 Weather

BBC2

6.35am Open University 12.00 Film: Saps At Sea (b/w, 1940). Laurel and Hardy find themselves adrift in a small boat with an escaped convict. 1.00 On the Record 2.00 Kali the Lion 3.00 Film: The Man who Shot Liberty Valance (b/w, 1962) Classic Western starring James Stewart and John Wayne 5.00 Rugby Special. Gloucester v Bath and Harlequins v Leicester 6.00 Grand Prix 7.05 The Money Programme 7.45 Messiah In Dublin. A reconstruction of the sound of the first performance of Handel's *Messiah* in 1741. 10.00 Screen Two: Enchanted April. Romantic comedy starring Miranda Richardson, Josie Lawrence, Polly Walker and Joan Plowright as four mismatched Londoners sharing a castle in Italy 11.40 Party Election Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats 11.50 Film: Chinese Boxes (1984) Down-beat thriller starring Will Patton as an American embroiled in drug-dealing in Berlin 1.20am Close

WORLD SERVICE TV

9.00am Eggs 'n' Baker 9.30 Playdays 9.50 Blue Peter 10.15 Dizzy Heights 10.40 Maid Marian And Her Merry Men 11.00 Country File 11.25 Village Praise 12.00 Nature 12.30 World News Week 1.00 On The Record 2.00 EastEnders 3.00 Natural World 3.50 Rosemary Conley 4.15 Beautywise 4.40 100% 5.30 Dr Who 5.55 Standing Room Only 6.30 Help Your Child With Science 6.40 Porridge 7.10 Casualty 8.00 BBC World Service News 8.30 The Last Romantics 10.00 Mastermind 10.30 The Money Programme 11.10 World Business Report 11.25 Close

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Stories Without Words 6.30 Cartoons 7.00 Simon In The Land Of Chalk Drawings 7.30 Once Upon A Time . . . Life 8.00 Kaboodle II 8.30 Galaxy High School 9.00 Captain N 10.00 Prince Valiant 11.00 The New Adventures Of He-Man 12.00 Kids of Degrassi Street 1.00 Adventure 2.00 Stories Without Words 2.30 Simon In The Land Of Chalk Drawings 3.00 The Care Bears Family 4.00 Galaxy High School 5.00 Ralph B Mouse 6.00 Kaboodle II 7.00 Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Discover The World 4.30 World Of Herbs 5.00 Spitfire Over Australia 5.50 Extra Dimensions 6.00 The Munro Show 6.30 The Amateur Naturalist 7.00 Japan: A Proper Place In The World 8.00 Proud To Be 9.00 Perspectives 9.30 Animals Of The Mediterranean 10.00 War: The Deadly Game Of Nations 11.00 The People Of The Four Winds 11.50 Extra Dimensions 12.00 Close

EUROSPORT

8.00am Trans World Sport 9.00 Stock Car Racing 10.00 Motor Racing 11.00 Boxing 12.30 Sunday Alive 1.00 Cycling: Tour de Flanders 2.00 Tennis ATP Tour 4.00 Cycling 4.30 Motor Racing 7.00 Rotterdam Marathon 8.00 Fencing 9.00 Tennis ATP Tour 11.00 Motor Racing 12.00 Close

LIFESTYLE

12.00noon Rambo 12.30 Spiral Zone 1.00 Saints And Sinners 1.55 Power Hits USA 2.50 Spain Spain International Cuisine 3.05 He Shoots, He Scores 4.00 The Great American Gameshows 5.30 Fashion File 6.00 Sell-A-Vision 10.00 Jukebox Music Videos 2.00 Last Jukebox Dance 3.00 Close

MTV

7.00am VJ Rebecca De Ruvo 10.30 European Top 20 12.30 XPO 1.00 The Big Picture 1.30 VJ Ray Cokes 5.30 Week In Rock 6.00 US Top 20 Video Countdown 8.00 120 Minutes 10.00 XPO 10.30 Headbanger's Ball 1.00 VJ Kristiane Backer 2.00 Night Videos

RTL

6.00am Yogi Bär 6.30 Scooby Doo 7.00 Li-La-Launebär 8.20 Film: Starflight 10.10 Kunst Und Botschaft 10.15 Die Woche Mit Geert Muller-Gerbes 11.05 Das Bibel Quiz 11.35 Major Dad 12.00 Mein Vater Ist Ein Ausserirdischer 12.30 Familie Munster 1.0 Ultra-man 1.30 Polizeibericht 2.0 Film: Die Katze Aus Dem Weltraum 4.30 Formel 1 – Report 5.00 Formel 1 – Grosser Preis Von Brasilien 6.35 Siegerehrung Formel 1 6.45 RTL Aktuell 7.15 Traumhochzeit 8.50 Spiegel TV 9.35 Prime Time – Spätausgabe 9.55 Playboy Late Night 10.25 Liebesstunden 10.55 Weinberg Am Kilimandscharo 10.55 Formel 1 – Highlights 11.20 Kanal 4 12.15 Film: Grenzpatrouille 2.00 Film: Die Gezähmte Spur 3.25 After Hours 3.50 Formel 1 – Highlights 4.15 Elf 99 5.00 Guten Morgen Deutschland

SCREENSPORT

6.30am US PGA Tour 1992 7.45 Family Circle Cup Tennis 1992 9.15 Dunhill Golf 10.20 Teleschuss '92 10.30 Matchroom Pro Box 12.30 Forte Snooker League 1992 2.30 Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 4.30 Powersports International 5.30 US Mens Pro Ski Tour 6.00 Dunhill Golf 7.00 Revs 7.30 Family Circle Cup Tennis 1992 9.30 US PGA Tour 1992 11.30 NBA Basketball 1991/92 1.00 Close

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise 9.30 Dayline 10.30 Those Were The Days 11.00 Dayline 11.30 Holiday Destinations 12.30 Financial Times Business Weekly 1.30 Memories 2.30 Roving Report 3.30 Our World 4.30 Those Were The Days 5.00 Live At Five 6.30 Roving Report 7.30 Financial Times Business Weekly 8.30 Memories 10.30 Roving Report 11.30 ABC News 12.30 Financial Times Business Weekly 2.30 Those Were The Days 3.30 Memories 4.30 Health Circuit 5.30 Memories

TV5

6.00am French Television News 6.20 Corps Accord 6.40 Méthode Victor 6.55 Clin D'Oeil 7.00 Canadian TV News 7.20 Affiches 7.25 Flash TV5 7.30 Espace Francophone 8.00 Envoyé Spécial 9.00 Concert Mozart/Sibelius 10.00 Les Chants Sacrés Du Bassin Méditerranéen 11.00 Flash TV5 11.05 Objectif Europe 11.30 Référence 12.00 French Television News 12.10 L'Ecole Des Fans 1.00 30 Millions D'Amis 1.30 La Mort Qui Tue 3.05 TV5 News 3.15 Correspondance 3.25 Les Grands Criminels 4.30 Les Aventures De La Liberté 5.30 TV5 News. Weather 5.50 Affiches 5.55 Clin D'Oeil 6.00 Le Jeu Des Dictionnaires 6.30 Belgian Television News 7.00 7/7 8.00 French Television News; Weather 8.30 Film: Gros Calin 10.00 French Television News 10.20 Cinerama 11.20 Porte Ouverte 11.50 Close

Augustan master: Ian Woosnam defends his title on Screensport (begins Thursday)

MONDAY

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Stories Without Words 6.30 Cartoon Capers 7.15 The Smoggies 8.45 Jack In The Box 10.45 Stories Without Words 11.15 Cartoon Capers 12.00 Lunchbox 1.30 Jack In The Box 3.30 The Smoggies 5.00 Dynamo Duck 6.30 Stopwatch 7.00 Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Choppers 4.30 Island Wildlife 5.00 The Man Who Was O 5.30 Space Craft 6.00 Beyond 2000 6.50 Bitten By The Bug 7.00 The Grand Tour 8.00 Search For Adventure 8.50 Walrus. The Wild Walruses 9.00 Adventure And Discovery 9.30 Hollywood Chronicles 10.00 Local Heroes, Global Change 11.00 Hollywood's Children 12.00 Close

EUROSPORT

8.00am Diving: European Cups from Milan 9.00 Cycling Tour de Flanders, Belgium 10.00 Equestrian Dressage World Cup Final, Sweden 11.00 International Motorsport 12.00 Rotterdam Marathon, Netherlands 1.00 Diving: European Cups from Milan 2.00 Fencing 3.00 Boxing 4.00 Motor Racing 6.00 Tennis ATP Tour 8.30 Eurosport News 9.00 Football Eurogoals Magazine 10.00 Tennis ATP Tour 11.30 Eurosport News 12.00 Close

LIFESTYLE

10.00am Getting Fit With Denise Austin 10.30 The Great American Gameshows 11.20 What's Cooking 11.25 Search For Tomorrow 11.50 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.45 David Hamilton's People 1.15 The Joan Rivers Show 2.05 Skyways 3.05 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 3.30 Cover Story 4.00 Lifestyle Tea Break 4.10 Dick Van Dyke Show 4.40 The Great American Gameshows 5.30 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 6.00 Remington Steele 7.00 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 10.00 Jukebox Music Videos 2.00 Last Jukebox Dance 3.00 Close

MTV

6.00am Awake On The Wild Side 9.00 VJ Paul King 12.00 VJ Simone 3.00 Greatest Hits 4.00 The MTV Report 4.15 At The Movies 4.30 News At Night 4.45 3 From 1 5.00 MTV Prime 6.00 Yo! MTV Raps Today 6.30 VJ Ray Cokes 9.00 Greatest Hits 10.00 The MTV Report 10.15 At The Movies 10.30 News At Night 10.45 3 From 1 11.00 Rock Block 12.00 VJ Kristiane Backer 2.00 Night Videos

RTL

6.00am Guten Morgen Deutschland 8.00 Wie Das Leben So Spielt 8.50 Reich und Schön 9.15 Dr med Marcus Welby 10.05 Lieber Onkel Bill 10.30 Tic Tac Toe 11.00 Familienduell 11.30 Zwölfdreissig 12.00 Eine Schrecklich Nette Familie 12.30 California Clan 1.20 Die Springfield Story 2.05 Dallas 2.50 CHiPs 3.40 Riskant! 4.10 Der Preis Ist Heiss 4.45 Gluck Am Drucker 5.00 Elf 99 5.45 RTL Aktuell 6.15 Das A-Team 7.15 Sielmann 2000 8.10 Blaues Blut Und Erbsensuppe 9.40 10 Vor 11 10.10 Männermagazin M 10.50 RTL Aktuell 11.00 Dienst In Vietnam 11.55 Kampf Gegen Die Mafia 12.40 Twilight Zone 1.05 Eine Verhängnisvolle Nacht 2.20 Kadrios, Tyrann Von Theben 4.15 Elf 99 5.00 Guten Morgen Deutschland

SCREENSPORT

7.00am Eurobics 7.30 IMSA GTP 1992 8.30 Dunhill Golf 9.30 Powersports International 10.30 Eurobics 11.00 Rowing 12.00 Pro Kick 1.00 Go – International Motorsport 2.00 Eurobics 2.30 World League Of US Football 4.30 Gillette World Sports Special 5.00 Bodybuilding 6.00 US Mens Pro Ski Tour 6.30 NHL Action 7.30 Indy Car 8.30 World League Of US Football 10.00 Spanish Football 10.30 Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 11.30 Dunhill Golf 12.30 Revs 1.00 Close

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise 9.30 The Conferences 10.00 News With Election Phone-in 11.30 Roving Report 12.00 News Hour 1.30 Good Morning America 3.30 Travel Destinations 4.30 The Reporters 5.00 Live At Five 6.30 Newsline 8.30 Beyond 2000 10.30 Newsline 11.30 ABC News 12.30 Newsline 1.30 ABC News 2.30 Memories 3.30 ABC News 4.30 Financial Times Business Weekly 5.30 Newsline

TV5

6.00am French Television News 6.40 Méthode Victor 6.55 Clin D'Oeil 7.00 Canadian TV News 7.20 Affiches 7.25 Flash TV5 7.30 Selection One World Channel 8.00 Eurojournal 9.00 Le Canada Sur Deux Roues 9.30 Téléfourism 10.00 Auto-Vision 10.30 Sports-Loisirs 10.50 Flash TV5 10.55 Interval 3.05 TV5 News 3.15 7/7 4.15 La Vérité Est Au Fond De La Marmite 4.40 Méthode Victor 5.00 Questions Pour Un Champion 5.30 TV5 News; Weather 5.50 Affiches 5.55 Clin D'Oeil 6.00 Carré Vert 6.30 Swiss Television News 7.00 Le Point 8.00 French Television News; Weather 8.30 Tous A La Une 10.00 French Television News 10.20 Ciel! Mon Mardi! 12.20 Close

TUESDAY

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Stories Without Words 6.30 Cartoon Capers 7.15 The Barklays 8.45 Jack In The Box 10.45 Stories Without Words 11.15 Cartoon Capers 12.00 Lunchbox 1.30 Jack In The Box 3.30 The Barklays 5.00 The Adventures Of Dynamo Duck 6.30 Chicken Minute 7.00 Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Amateur Naturalist 4.30 Earthfile 5.00 A Traveller's Guide To The Orient 5.30 The Stars Reach For The Stars 6.00 Voyager – The World Of National Geographic 6.55 Artworld. Child Artists 7.00 Africa: The Magnificent African Cake 8.00 Beauty Queens 9.00 Mucking Up The Med 10.00 Wild Sanctuaries 10.30 Art Of The Western World 11.00 The Mystery Of The Walrus 12.00 Close

EUROSPORT

8.00am Tennis ATP Tour 10.00 Equestrian Dressage World Cup Final, Sweden 11.00 American Supercross Grand Prix 12.00 Diving. European Cups from Milan 1.00 Tennis ATP Tour 2.30 Eurofun Magazine 3.00 Fencing 4.00 Football Eurogoals Magazine 5.00 Tennis ATP Tour 8.30 Eurosport News 9.00 Wrestling 10.00 Tennis ATP Tour 11.30 Eurosport News 12.00 Close

LIFESTYLE

10.00am Getting Fit With Denise Austin 10.30 The Great American Gameshows 11.20 Body Talk 11.25 Search For Tomorrow 11.50 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.45 David Hamilton's People 1.15 The Joan Rivers Show 2.05 Skyways 3.05 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 3.30 Cover Story 4.00 Lifestyle Tea Break 4.10 WKRP In Cincinnati 4.40 The Great American Gameshows 5.30 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 6.00 Remington Steele 7.00 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 10.00 Jukebox Music Videos 2.00 Last Jukebox Dance 3.00 Close

MTV

6.00am Awake On The Wild Side 9.00 VJ Paul King 12.00 VJ Simone 3.00 Greatest Hits 4.00 The MTV Report 4.15 At The Movies 4.30 News At Night 4.45 3 From 1 5.00 MTV Prime 6.00 Yo! MTV Raps Today 6.30 VJ Ray Cokes 9.00 MTV's Greatest Hits 10.00 The MTV Report 10.15 At The Movies 10.30 News At Night 10.45 3 From 1 11.00 MTV's Post Modern 12.00 VJ Kristiane Backer 2.00 Night Videos

RTL

6.00am Guten Morgen Deutschland 8.00 Wie Das Leben So Spielt 8.50 Reich und Schon 9.15 Dr med. Marcus Welby 10.05 Lieber Onkel Bill 10.30 Tic Tac Toe 11.00 Familienduell 11.30 Zwölfdreissig 12.00 Eine Schrecklich Nette Familie 12.30 California Clan 1.20 Die Springfield Story 2.05 Dallas 2.50 CHiPs 3.40 Riskant! 4.10 Der Preis Ist Heiss 4.45 Gluck Am Drucker 5.00 Elf 99 5.45 RTL Aktuell 6.15 Knight Rider 7.15 Colombo. Mord Im Bistro 8.40 Explosiv 9.50 LA Law 10.50 RTL Aktuell 11.00 Dienst In Vietnam 11.55 Kampf Gegen Die Mafia 12.45 Twilight Zone 1.10 Die Maske Fur Den Tod 2.35 Engel Aus Zweiter Hand 3.55 After Hours 4.15 Elf 99 5.00 Guten Morgen Deutschland

SCREENSPORT

7.00am Eurobics 7.30 Rowing 8.30 Teleschuss 92 8.40 NHL Action 9.30 Bodybuilding 10.30 Eurobics 11.00 NBA Basketball 1991/92 12.30 NBA Action 1992 1.00 Powersports International 2.00 Eurobics 2.30 Augusta Masters Highlights '91 3.30 World League Of US Football 5.00 Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 6.00 Spanish Football 6.30 Gillette World Sports Special 7.00 US Men's Pro Ski Tour 1991/2 7.30 DTM German Touring Cars 8.15 Porsche Carrera Cup 8.30 Matchroom Pro Box 10.30 Forte Snooker League 1992 12.30 Teleschuss 92 12.40 Close

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise 9.30 The Conferences 10.00 News, With Election Phone-in 11.30 Nightline 12.00 News 1.30 Good Morning America 3.30 Travel Destinations 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.00 Live At Five 6.30 Newsline 8.30 Target 10.30 Newsline 11.30 ABC News 12.30 Newsline 1.30 ABC News 2.30 Memories 3.30 ABC News 4.30 Memories 5.30 Newsline

TV5

6.00am French Television News 6.40 Méthode Victor 6.55 Clin D'Oeil 7.00 Canadian TV News 7.20 Affiches 7.25 Flash TV5 7.30 Selection One World Channel 8.00 Eurojournal 9.00 Espace Francophone 9.30 Sindbad 10.00 Reflets, Images D'Ailleurs 10.50 Flash TV5 10.55 Interval 3.05 TV5 News 3.15 Le Point 4.15 La Vérité Est Au Fond De La Marmite 4.40 Méthode Victor 5.00 Questions Pour Un Champion 5.30 TV5 News; Weather 5.50 Affiches 5.55 Clin D'Oeil 6.00 Le Canada Sur Deux Roues 6.30 Swiss Television News 7.00 Envoyé Special 8.00 French Television News, Weather 8.30 Film Le Tramway Fantôme 10.00 Bouillon De Culture 10.30 French Television News 11.50 Close

WEDNESDAY

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Stories Without Words 6.30 Cartoon Capers 7.15 The Smoggies 8.45 Jack In The Box 10.45 Stories Without Words 11.15 Cartoon Capers 12.00 Lunchbox 1.30 Jack In The Box 3.30 The Smoggies 5.00 Dynamo Duck 6.30 The Guys Next Door 7.00 Close

DISCOVERY

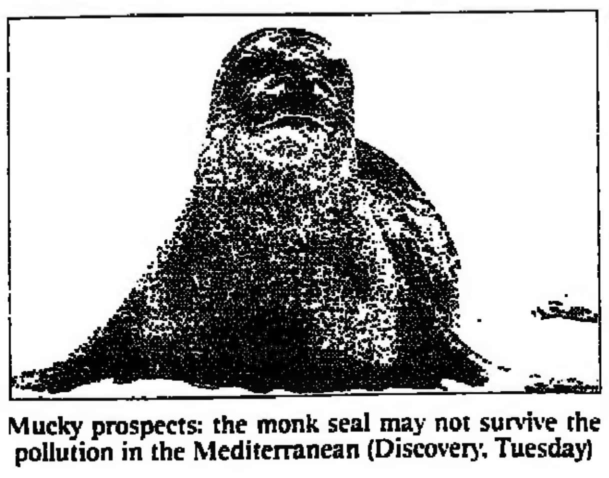
4.00pm High Five 4.30 Bush Tucker Man 5.00 Sagarmatha 5.50 Sumo Wrestling 6.00 Beyond 2000 6.55 Australia Take A Bow 7.00 Animals Of The Mediterranean 7.30 Guitarra – A Musical Journey Through Spain 8.00 American Caesar, I Shall Return 8.30 World Of Herbs 9.00 Thin Air, White Water 9.50 Extra Dimensions 10.00 Voyager — The World Of National Geographic 11.00 The Black Leather Jacket 12.00 Close

EUROSPORT

8.00am Tennis ATP Tour 10.00 Rotterdam Marathon 11.00 Fencing 12.00 Football Eurogoals Magazine 1.00 Tennis ATP Tour 2.30 Live Cycling Gent-Wevelgem Race, Belgium 4.00 Wrestling 5.00 Tennis ATP Tour 8.30 Eurosport News 9.00 Eurotop Event 10.30 Tennis ATP Tour 11.30 Eurosport News 12.00 Close

LIFESTYLE

10.00am Getting Fit With Denise Austin 10.30 Great American Gameshows 11.20 What's New 11.25 Search For Tomorrow 11.50 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.45 David Hamilton's People 1.15 The Joan Rivers Show 2.05 Skyways 3.05 Sell-A-Vision 3.30 Cover Story 4.00 Lifestyle Tea Break 4.10 Dick Van Dyke Show 4.40 Great American Gameshows 5.30 Sell-A-Vision 6.00 Remington Steele 7.00 Sell-A-Vision 10.00 Jukebox Music Videos 2.00 Last Jukebox Dance 3.00 Close



Mucky prospects: the monk seal may not survive the pollution in the Mediterranean (Discovery, Tuesday)

MTV

6.00am Awake On The Wild Side 9.00 VJ Paul King 12.00 VJ Simone 3.00 Greatest Hits 4.00 The MTV Report 4.15 At The Movies 4.30 News At Night 4.45 3 From 1 5.00 MTV Prime 6.00 Yo! MTV Raps Today 6.30 Dial MTV 7.00 VJ Ray Cokes 9.00 Greatest Hits 10.00 The MTV Report 10.15 At The Movies 10.30 News At Night 10.45 3 From 1 11.00 MTV's Post Modern 12.00 VJ Kristiane Backer 2.00 Night Videos

RTL

6.00am Guten Morgen Deutschland 8.00 Wie Leben So Spielt 8.50 Reich Und Schon 9.15 Dr med Marcus Welby 10.05 Lieber Onkel Bill 10.30 Tic Tac Toe 11.00 Familienduell 11.30 Zwölfdreissig 12.00 Eine Schrecklich Nette Familie 12.30 California Clan 1.20 Die Springfield Story 2.05 Dallas 2.50 CHiPs 3.40 Riskant! 4.10 Der Preis Ist Heiss 4.45 Gluck Am Drucker 5.00 Elf 99 5.45 RTL Aktuell 6.20 Zuruck In Die Vergangenheit 7.15 Die Heimatmelodie 8.15 Gottschalk 9.20 Stern TV 10.00 Der Flotte Dreier 10.30 Benny Hill 10.50 RTL Aktuell 11.00 Dienst In Vietnam 11.55 Kampf Gegen Die Mafia 12.40 Twilight Zone 1.05 Bahnhof Ins Gluck 2.25 Film Geheimnis des Herzens 4.00 After Hours 4.15 Elf 99 5.00 Guten Morgen Deutschland

SCREENSPORT

7.00am Eurobics 7.30 US Men's Pro Ski Tour 1991/2 8.00 Spanish Football 8.30 Indy Car 9.30 Go – International Motorsport 10.30 Eurobics 11.00 Forte Snooker League 1992 1.00 NHL Action 2.00 Eurobics 2.30 DTM German Touring Cars 3.15 Porsche Carrera Cup 3.30 Family Circle Cup Tennis 1992 5.30 Dutch Open Bowling Masters 6.30 International Showjumping 7.30 World Rally Championship 1992 8.30 Warsteiner Ski Magazin 9.00 US PGA Tour 1992 10.15 Golf Report 10.30 NHL Ice Hockey 1991/92 12.30 Augusta Masters Highlights '91 1.30 Close

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise 9.30 The Conferences 10.00 News, Election Phone-in 11.30 Nightline 1.30 Good Morning America 3.30 Travel Destinations 4.30 Fashion TV 5.00 Live At Five 6.30 Newsline 7.30 News 8.30 Target 9.30 News 10.30 Newsline 11.30 ABC News 12.30 Newsline 1.30 ABC News 2.30 Memories 3.30 ABC News 4.30 Memories 5.30 Newsline

TV5

6.00am French Television News 6.40 Méthode Victor 6.55 Clin D'Oeil 7.00 Canadian TV News 7.20 Affiches 7.25 Flash TV5 7.30 Selection One World Channel 8.00 Objectif Europe 8.30 European Magazines 9.00 Paroles D'Ecole 9.30 Découverte 10.30 Génies en Herbe 10.50 Flash TV5 10.55 Interval 3.05 TV5 News 3.15 Planète Des Hommes 3.30 Le Chemin Des Ecoliers 4.15 La Vérité Est Au Fond De La Marmite 4.40 Méthode Victor 5.00 Questions Pour Un Champion 5.30 TV5 News Weather 5.50 Affiches 5.55 Clin D'Oeil 6.00 Montagne 6.30 Swiss Television News 7.00 Temps Présent 8.00 French Television News, Weather 8.30 La Nuit Des Molières 11.15 French Television News 11.35 Close

THURSDAY

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Stories Without Words 6.30 Cartoon Capers 7.15 The Smoggies 8.45 Jack In The Box 10.45 Stories Without Words 11.15 Cartoon Capers 12.00 Lunchbox 1.30 Jack In The Box 3.30 The Smoggies 5.00 Dynamo Duck 6.30 Good Sports 7.00 Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Wild America 4.30 Discovery Sport 5.00 Space Stations 6.00 Voyager 7.00 Jack Thompson Down Under 7.50 Voices Of Wisdom 8.00 The Nobel Century 9.00 The Sands Of Time 10.00 Big City Metro 10.30 Earthfile 4 11.00 Redlegs Of Barbados 11.50 Seal Springbreak 12.00 Close

EUROSPORT

8.00am Tennis ATP Tour 10.00 Eurofun Magazine 10.30 Eurotop Event 12.00 Wrestling 1.00 Tennis ATP Tour 2.00 Speed Skating 3.00 Equestrian 4.00 American Supercross Grand Prix 5.00 Tennis ATP Tour 6.00 Motorsport News 8.30 Eurosport News 9.00 Tennis ATP Tour 10.30 Trans World Sport 11.30 Eurosport News 12.00 Close

LIFESTYLE

10.00am Getting Fit With Denise Austin 10.30 Great American Gameshows 11.20 Style File 11.25 Search For Tomorrow 11.50 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.45 David Hamilton's People 1.15 The Joan Rivers Show 2.05 Skyways 3.05 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 3.30 Cover Story 4.00 Lifestyle Tea Break 4.10 WKRP In Cincinnati 4.40 Great American Gameshows 5.30 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 6.00 Remington Steele 7.00 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 10.00 Jukebox Music Videos 2.00 Last Jukebox Dance 3.00 Close

MTV

6.00am Awake On The Wild Side 9.00 VJ Paul King 12.00 VJ Simone 3.00 Greatest Hits 4.00 The MTV Report 4.15 MTV At The Movies 4.30 News At Night 4.45 3 From 1 5.00 MTV Prime 6.00 Yo! MTV Raps Today 6.30 Dial MTV 7.00 VJ Ray Cokes 9.00 Greatest Hits 10.00 The MTV Report 10.15 At The Movies 10.30 News At Night 10.45 3 From 1 11.00 MTV's Post Modern 12.00 VJ Kristiane Backer 2.00 Night Videos

RTL

6.00am Guten Morgen Deutschland 8.00 Wie Das Leben So Spielt 8.50 Reich Und Schon 9.15 Dr med Marcus Welby 10.05 Lieber Onkel Bill 10.30 Tic Tac Toe 11.00 Familienduell 11.30 Zwolf-dreissig 12.00 Eine Schrecklich Nette Familie 12.30 California Clan 1.20 Die Springfield Story 2.05 Dallas 2.50 CHiPs 3.40 Riskant! 4.10 Der Preis Ist Heiss 4.45 Gluck Am Drucker 5.00 Elf 99 5.45 RTL Aktuell 6.15 21 Jump Street 7.15 Superfan 8.25 Notruf 9.20 Film Time Guardian 10.50 RTL Aktuell 11.00 Dienst In Vietnam 11.55 Kampf Gegen Die Mafia 12.40 Werewolf 1.15 Film Wir Singen Im Chor 2.35 Film Wo Die Liebe Hinfallt 4.15 Elf 99 5.00 Guten Morgen Deutschland

SCREENSPORT

7.00am Eurobics 7.30 Warsteiner Ski Magazin 8.00 US PGA Golf Tour 9.15 Golf Report 9.30 Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 10.30 Eurobics 11.00 Matchroom Pro Box 1.00 World Rally Championship 1992 2.00 Eurobics 2.30 Bodybuilding 3.30 Augusta Masters Highlights '91 4.30 NHL Ice Hockey 1991/92 6.30 Argentina Soccer 7.30 Powersports International 8.30 US Men's Pro Ski Tour 1991/2 9.00 Augusta Masters 1992 11.00 Spanish Football 1.00 Close

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise 9.30 The Conferences 11.30 Nightline 1.30 Good Morning America 3.30 Travel Destinations 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.00 Live At Five 6.30 Newsline 7.30 News 8.30 Target 9.30 News 10.30 Newsline 11.30 ABC News 12.30 Newsline 1.30 ABC News 2.30 Memories 3.30 ABC News 4.30 Memories 5.30 Newsline

TV5

6.00am French Television News 6.40 Méthode Victor 6.55 Clin D'Oeil 7.00 Canadian TV News 7.20 Affiches 7.25 Flash TV5 7.30 Selection One World Channel 8.00 Eurojournal 9.00 Bouillon De Culture 9.30 Carte Vert 10.00 Montagne 10.30 Magazine Agricole 10.50 Flash TV5 10.55 Interval 3.05 TV5 News 3.15 Temps Présent 4.15 La Vérité Est Au Fond De La Marmite 4.40 Méthode Victor 5.00 Questions Pour Un Champion 5.30 TV5 News Weather 5.50 Affiches 5.55 Clin D'Oeil 6.00 Téléfourism 6.30 Swiss Television News 7.00 Faut Pas Rêver 8.00 French Television News Weather 8.30 La Marche Du Siècle 9.45 French Television News 10.15 French Television News 10.35 Viva 11.20 Dossiers Justice 11.45 Close

FRIDAY

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Stories Without Words 6.30 Cartoon Capers 7.15 The Smoggies 8.45 Jack In The Box 10.45 Stories Without Words 11.15 Cartoon Capers 12.00 Lunchbox 1.30 Jack In The Box 3.30 The Smoggies 5.00 The Adventures Of Dynamo Duck 6.30 You Can't Do That On Television 7.00 Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Ourselves And Other Animals 4.30 Big City Metro 5.00 Beats Of The Heart 6.00 Beyond 2000 6.55 Australia Take A Bow 7.00 Wild Sanctuaries 7.30 A Traveller's Guide To The Orient 8.00 Confrontations With Nature 8.30 The Stars Reach For The Stars 9.00 Local Heroes, Global Change 10.00 Voyager – The World Of National Geographic 11.00 Perspectives 11.30 American Caesar I Shall Return 12.00 Close

EUROSPORT

8.00am Tennis ATP Tour 11.00 Speed Skating 12.00 American Supercross Grand Prix 1.00 Tennis ATP Tour 2.30 Motorsport News 3.00 Trans World Sport 4.00 Speed Skating 5.00 Tennis ATP Tour 8.30 Eurosport News 9.00 International Boxing 10.00 Tennis ATP Tour 11.30 Eurosport News 12.00 Close

LIFESTYLE

10.00am Getting Fit With Denise Austin 10.30 Great American Gameshows 11.20 Star Time 11.25 Search For Tomorrow 11.50 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.45 David Hamilton's People 1.15 The Joan Rivers Show 2.05 Power Hits USA 3.05 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 3.30 Cover Story 4.00 Lifestyle Tea Break 4.10 Dick Van Dyke Show 4.40 Great American Gameshows 5.30 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 6.00 Remington Steele 7.00 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 10.00 Jukebox Music Videos 2.00 Last Jukebox Dance 3.00 Close

MTV

6.00am Awake On The Wild Side 9.00 VJ Paul King 12.00 VJ Simone 3.00 Greatest Hits 4.00 The MTV Report 4.15 At The Movies 4.30 News At Night 4.45 3 From 1 5.00 MTV Prime 6.00 Yo! MTV Raps Today 6.30 Dial MTV 7.00 VJ Ray Cokes 9.00 Greatest Hits 10.00 The MTV Report 10.15 At The Movies 10.30 News At Night 10.45 3 From 1 11.00 MTV's Post Modern 12.00 VJ Kristiane Backer 2.00 Night Videos

RTL

8.00am Wie Das Leben So Spielt 8.50 Reich Und Schon 9.15 Dr med Marcus Welby 10.05 Lieber Onkel Bill 10.30 Tic Tac Toe 11.00 Familienduell 11.30 Zwölfdreissig 12.00 Eine Schrecklich Nette Familie 12.30 California Clan 1.20 Die Springfield Story 2.05 Dallas 2.50 CHiPs 3.40 Riskant! 4.10 Der Preis Ist Heiss 4.45 Gluck Am Drucker 5.00 Elf 99 5.45 RTL Aktuell 6.20 Pazifikgeschwader 214 7.15 Tropical Heat 8.15 Ein Schloss am Wörthersee 9.15 Anpfiff 10.05 Tutti Frutti 11.00 Mitternachtsstrip 11.05 Die Elftausend Ruten Schlag Mich, Liebling 12.45 Liebe Tod und Teufel 2.20 Die Nacht der Wahrheit 3.30 Formel 1 5.00 Zeichentrickfilm 5.45 Nozzles

SCREENSPORT

7.00am Eurobics 7.30 Augusta Masters 1992 9.30 International Showjumping 10.30 Eurobics 11.00 NHL Ice Hockey 1991/92 1.00 Warsteiner Ski Magazin 1.30 US Mens Pro Ski Tour 2.00 Eurobics 2.30 Dutch Open Bowling Masters 3.30 Revs 4.00 Argentina Soccer 1991/92 5.00 Indy Car World Series 1992 6.00 Porsche Carrera Cup 6.15 Golf Report 6.30 NBA Action 1992 7.00 Gillette World Sports Special 7.30 Go – International Motorsport 8.30 US Mens Pro Ski Tour 9.00 Augusta Masters 1992 11.00 NBA Basketball 1991/92 12.30 Close

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise 9.30 The Conferences 10.00 News, With Election Phone In 11.30 Nightline 1.30 Good Morning America 3.30 Travel Destinations 4.30 Memories 5.00 Live At Five 6.30 Newsline 7.30 News 8.30 Target 9.30 News 10.30 Newsline 11.30 ABC News 12.30 Newsline 1.30 ABC News 2.30 Memories 3.30 ABC News 4.30 Memories 5.30 Newsline

TV5

6.00am French Television News 6.40 Méthode Victor 6.55 Clin D'Oeil 7.00 Canadian TV News 7.20 Affiches 7.25 Flash TV5 7.30 Selection One World Channel 8.00 Eurojournal 9.00 Vidéotheque 10.00 Télé-objectif 10.50 Flash TV5 10.55 Interval 3.05 TV5 News 3.15 Faut Pas Rêver 4.15 La Vérité Est Au Fond De La Marmite 4.40 Méthode Victor 5.00 Questions Pour Un Champion 5.30 TV5 News Weather 5.50 Affiches 5.55 Clin D'Oeil 6.00 30 Millions D'Amis 6.30 Belgian Television News 7.00 Strip Tease 8.00 French Television News, Weather 8.30 Fort Boyard 9.45 French Television News 10.05 Mediasud 10.15 Nord-Sud 12.00 Close

Where the has-beens still are

The housewives' lunchtime companion. *Non è la rai*: "the mores of Italian television are still those of the 1960s: women are invariably treated as dollybirds"

William Ward extols the delights of Italian television and argues that its much-criticised programmes are simply a true reflection of the society that produces and watches them

To anyone wondering why Italy's pop singers and politicians alike have the longest shelf life in Europe (most of the former have been around since the 1960s, the latter since the war), the answer can be gleaned from television. The entire Italian status quo floats beatifically from one cosy, uncritical tele-opportunity to another. Far from being exasperated by the slow repetitiveness of it, viewers remain entranced. Not for them the cruel turnover of British public life: they like their VIPs (pronounced veeps) preserved for eternity, like saints' relics, on constant televised display. Which is why Italian pop looks and sounds as though it is trapped in an early 1960s time warp.

Not only did the four-day San Remo Song Festival, transmitted live in its entirety at the end of February, benefit from a two month post-Christmas build-up, but most of its mummified castlist will be dominating TV variety shows with their sentimental ballads and dirges, until well into autumn. San Remo is a national institution in Italy and has been televised almost ever since television broadcasting was set up in 1954. Watching it is even fashionable among intellectuals, who love to feel simultaneously amused and appalled.

Now viewers are struggling through the general election campaign, leading up to Ballot Day tomorrow. Never a people to deprive themselves of choice, the Italians have some 15 national channels and about 1,000 local channels on which to view the antics of the 13 major parties and 300 minor ones taking part.

Strict broadcasting regulations contrive to create a television Lent for politicians, to match the religious one: during the electoral campaign they have to give up the comfortable chatshow sofas and jolly panel games, and stick to the party political broadcasts. This is even more painful for the pop singers, actresses and footballers standing as candidates.

However, due to the plethora of parties, and the convoluted, long-winded nature of Italian political discourse (the "sound bite" is a concept untranslatable into Italian), there seems to be little room for anything except for party political broadcasts at the moment. After the elections, the ubiquitous Giulio Andreotti (Christian Democrat) will resume his sardonic chatshow quips, corny actor Nino Manfredi (Radicals) his coffee adverts for Lavazza, and pornodiva Moana Pozzi (Partito d'amore), will once again be mercilessly pilloried by the alternative comedians on *Avanzi* (RAI 3.).

For foreigners used to sharply edited and scripted half hour programmes, the early Warhol movie-style longueurs of Italian television can be quite a shock. Veteran Pippo Baudo's *Domenica In* (RAI 1) rambles on for up to six hours: public broadcaster RAI's gala variety shows often last the entire evening. The American-flavoured contents of Silvio Berlusconi's RTI channels tend to be pithier.

Since so much is live, there is usually little time for editing or rehearsing. Like their politicans, Italians are naturally prolix: on television they are unstoppable. It is possible to zap one's way through 30 channels, and still find the same guest on the excellent late-night Maurizio Costanzo Show wrestling with the same thought when you come back to Canale 5.

But to condemn Italian television on the basis of timing and production values alone is to miss the point: at its best, it exhibits a raw, live energy comparable to a rock concert. There isn't an elegant period costume drama in sight; this nation of gifted natural performers is so self-absorbed that its television is modelled almost entirely around contemporary life, leaving precious little time for tasteful reconstructions of the past.

Nouveau riche television has long taken over from neo-realist cinema as the best mirror of contemporary Italy's soul. The crude black and white images that were the perfect vehicle for Anna Magnani and Aldo Fabrizi's struggle against poverty and oppression have no useful place today.

They have been superseded by the rich, glittering colour of the variety/game shows presented by GianFranco Funari (Italia 1) and Raffaela Carra (RAI 1/2). Mummified media stars expect up to £20,000 just for an appearance. Gianni Minoli, RAI 2 executive and presenter of the news magazine *Mixer* calculates that the costs incurred by Italian primetime exceed those of all other European channels put together.

The Italian Catholic church, horrified by the sheer consumerist vulgarity of game show extravaganzas, has now learned from detailed surveys that viewers mostly watch televised masses "for the sumptuousness of the spectacle", and rarely "for the religious content".

Advertising is ubiquitous — not just in the breaks, but during many programmes as well, in the form of sponsorship. On the local channels, the adverts are themselves programmes — four-hour sales pitches by crazed shop assistants for quack cosmetics, cheap fur coats, and trashy jewellery.

Foreigners often unfairly criticise Italian television for not attempting to occupy the moral high ground with endless hand-wringing documentaries of the kind common in Britain.

Far from being sordid, there is something curiously innocent, even surreal, about all the acres of naked flesh prancing across Italian screens. The human equivalent of radio jingles, their presence punctuates the visual pauses in everything from the housewives' lunchtime companion *Non è la Rai* (Canale 5) through the adolescents' fast-moving satire *Striscia la Notizia* (Canale 5) to the husbands' late-night strip show, the internationally notorious *Colpo Grosso* (Italia 7).

Italian television is as politically incorrect as the society it so faithfully reflects: its mores are resolutely those of the 1960s. Women are invariably treated as dollybirds; blacks, the handicapped and the elderly are patronised furiously and children spoilt rotten, particularly on the Catholic RAI 1.

The dominant trend of the last few years has been *tv verita* — where ordinary people offer up the often unappetising minutiae of their private lives for public scrutiny. It was pioneered by schoolmarmish Donatella Raffai's *Chi l'ha visto?* (RAI 3), in which Southern peasants recount how some family member has disappeared, while viewers phone in with implausible sightings that sometimes lead to televised mawkish reunions; and by *Fra marito e moglie* (Rete 4) where matinee idol Luca Barbareschi goads disgruntled married couples into violent domestic arguments. Its self-explanatory prequel *Agenzia matrimoniale* (Canale 5) is tamer.

RAI 2's *Il coraggio di vivere* turns the private anguish of consenting AIDS victims and drug addicts into public spectacle. Memorable recent variations on a theme are the charming *Scene da un matrimonio* (Canale 5) in which the slyly camp Davide Mengacci visits young to-be-weds in the provinces as they prepare for their Big Day; and the runaway success of the season, *Scherzi a parte* (Italia 1), which combines the formulae of Candid Camera and chatshow, by subjecting the rich and famous to complicated hoaxes, secretly filmed on location, followed by ritual apologies in studio. Established stars have threatened legal action, but for truly desperate has-beens, these sadistic trouncings represent the precious oxygen of publicity.

Also much in vogue is *la tv delle risse* — televised rows — where the chattering classes are actively encouraged to raise their voices — and their fists. On *L'Istruttoria* (Italia 1), the 130 kilo neo-conservative presenter Giuliano Ferrara whips his guests into a state of hysteria, while his Jacobin-radical rival Michele Santoro has just had his megaphone-programme Samarcanda (RAI 3) suppressed until after the elections for being too controversial. The youthful art critic Vittorio Sgarbi has become a major national figure (and Liberal party candidate) thanks to his violent arguments — and punch-ups — on shows such as Ferrara's and Costanzo's.

The sheer all-encompassing vividness of Italian television, portraying glamour and squalor with the same sadistic detail, doesn't just fascinate the Italians. For their millions of followers throughout the Eastern Mediterranean, RAI and RTI have made Italy into a beacon of hope, rather as BBC radio was for occupied Europe during the war.

Satellite TV listings, page 17

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

AMSTERDAM

LIFE WITH AN IDIOT: World première of Russian composer Alfred Schnittke's black-comedy opera, produced by Boris A. Pokrovski, conducted by Mstislav Rostropovich and with a libretto by Viktor Erofeev. The main roles are sung by Dale Duesing, Teresa Ringholz, Howard Haskin, Leonid Zimmenko and Robin Leggate. **De Nederlandse Opera**, Waterlooplein 22. Tel: (31 20) 6255455. *Apr 13, 16, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 30.*

ANTWERP

AMERICA — BRIDGE OF THE SUN: Exhibition examining 500 years of the interaction between European culture in the Low Countries and the Indian culture of America which bore fruit in the arts and sciences as well as in the daily life of the two civilisations. **Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten**, Leopold de Waelplein. Tel: (32 3) 4742411 8. *Until May 31.*

BERLIN

AVANT-GARDE DANCE: This programme offers the German première of a revised version of Michael Clark's *BOG.3.0*, and the world premières of *Layteri* by Stephen Petronio and *Die Offnung* (*The Opening*) by surreal choreographer Bill T. Jones's. **Deutsche Oper Berlin**, Richard-Wagner Strasse 10. Tel: (49 30) 3410249. *Apr 5, 7, 30, May 27, June 18, 24.*

FRANKFURT

DIE GROSSE UTOPIE: A fascinating exploration of the Russian Avant-Garde period (1915-1932), this exhibition boasts more than 800 exhibits, two-thirds of them from museums and private collections in the Soviet Union. **Schirn Kunsthalle**, Am Römerberg (Tel: 49 69) 2998820 *Until May 10.*

HAMBURG

EMILIA GALOTTI: Gotthold Ephraim Lessing's tragedy dealing with contemporary concepts of honour and betrayal, directed by Peter Löscher. Marlen Diekhoff, Matthias Fuchs, Ingo Hülsmann and Roland Kenda head the cast. **Deutsches Schauspielhaus**, Kirchenallee. Tel (49 40) 248713 0 *Apr 1, 7, 14, 17, 26*

THE GINGER MAN: Michael Bogdanov directs the play based on J P Donleavy's hilarious and outrageous novel set in Ireland and London. Marion Brockwelds, Marlen Diekhoff, Burghart Klaussner, Hans-Joachim Millies and Martin Pawlowsky head the cast. **Deutsches Schauspielhaus** (as above). *Apr 12, 19, 23*

HELSINKI

ELINA: New opera by young composer Jukka Linkola, based on a 14th-century Finnish fable, and with libretto by Eeriti Saarinta. The story follows the wooing of Elina, a 15-year-old woodsman's daughter by a brutal and aristocratic judge. **Finnish National Opera**, Bulevarti 23-27. Tel (359 0) 129255 *Apr 7, 11, 21, 24.*

LAUSANNE

15TH INTERNATIONAL LAUSANNE BIENNIAL — CONTEMPORARY TEXTILE ART: A diverse range of textiles using traditional weaving and experimental techniques. This year's show indicates a new environmental sensitivity with a trend towards using natural and recycled materials. **Pelais de Rumine**, place de la Riponne. Tel (41 21) 230757 *Opens today until June 25*

PARIS

ANDROMAQUE: Marc Lammit's staging of Racine's tragedy dealing with the follies of love and war, with Art Nouveau designs and costumes by Carlo Tommasi. **Théâtre National de Chaillot**, 1 place du Trocadéro. Tel (33 1) 47278115. *Until Apr 25*

TOULOUSE-LAUTREC: From prancing horses to dancing girls, Toulouse-Lautrec captured French life with unrivalled veracity. This dynamic retrospective, featuring 200 works, demonstrates a more diverse range of styles than had previously been thought. **Galéries Nationales du Grand Palais**, avenue du Général Eisenhower. Tel: (33 1) 40743865 *Until June 1*

WORLD SERVICE RADIO

SATURDAY APRIL 4: 6.00am World News 5.30 Londres Matin 6.59 Weather 7.00 World News 7.09 News About Britain 7.15 The World Today 7.30 Meridian 8.00 Newsdesk 8.30 People and Politics 9.00 World News 9.09 Words of Faith 9.15 A Jolly Good Show 10.00 World News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 Worldcinet 10.30 Personal View 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News Summary 11.01 Jazz Now & Then 11.15 Club 648 11.30 Londres Mdi 11.45 Mittagsmagazin midday Newsdesk 12.30pm Meridian 1.00 World News 1.09 News About Britain 1.15 Multitrack 3 1.45 Sports Roundup 2.00 Newshour 3.00 News Summary 3.01 Sportsworld 4.14 News Summary 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 4.40 German Features 5.00 World & British News 5.14 Travel News 5.15 BBC English 5.30 Londres Soir 6.14 Letter From America 6.29 News Summary 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 News Summary 8.01 Rosens and the World 8.30 Europe This Weekend 9.00 World News 9.09 Personal View 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Meridian 10.00 Newshour 11.00 World News 11.09 News About Britain 11.15 Jazz For The Asking 11.45 Sports Roundup midnight World News

SUNDAY APRIL 5: 12.05am Words of Faith 12.10 Book Choice 12.15 A Jolly Good Show 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 The Ken Bruce Show 2.00 News Summary 2.01 Play of the Week/Globe Theatre: A Sense Of Things Moving Forward 3.00 Newsdesk 3.30 I Remember It Well 4.00 World News 4.09 Words of Faith 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30am World Business Review 4.40 Travel & Weather News 4.45 News & Press Review in German 5.00 German Features 5.24 News in German 5.30 Europe This Weekend 5.58 Weather 6.00 World News 6.30 Londres Matin 6.59 Weather 7.00 World News 7.09 News About Britain 7.15 Letter From America 7.30 Jazz For The Asking 8.00 Newsdesk 8.30 From Our Own Correspondent 8.50 Write On... 9.00 World News 9.09 Words of Faith 9.15 Music With Matthew 10.00 World News 10.05 World Business Review 10.15 Seeing Stars 10.30 Folk In Britain 10.45 Sports Round-up 11.00 News Summary 11.01 Science In Action 11.30 Londres Mdi 11.45 Mittagsmagazin midday Newsdesk 12.30 The Ken Bruce Show 1.00 News Summary 1.01 Play of the Week/Globe Theatre: A Sense Of Things Moving Forward 2.00 Newshour 3.00 News Summary 3.01 The Human Child 3.30 Anything Goes 4.00 World News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 4.40 German Features 5.00 World & British News 5.14 Travel News 5.15 BBC English 5.30 Londres Soir 6.14 Club 648 6.29 News Summary 6.30 News in German 6.40 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 News Summary 8.01 Politics and Pop 8.30 Europe Tonight 9.00 World News 9.09 Folk In British 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Break A Leg 10.00 Newshour 11.00 World News 11.09 News About Britain 11.15 Seeing Stars 11.30 Letter From America 11.45 Sports Roundup midnight World News

MONDAY APRIL 6: 12.05am World Business Review 12.15 Music With Matthew 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 In Praise Of God 2.00 News Summary 2.01 Going To The Pictures - Casablanca 2.45 Meistersingers 3.00 Newsdesk 3.30 Composer Of The Month: Henry Purcell 4.00 World News 4.09 Words of Faith 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 The Week Ahead 4.40 Travel and Weather News 4.45 News & Press Review in German 5.00 Morgenmagazin 5.20 Tips for Tourists 5.24 News in German 5.30 Europe Today 5.59 Weather 6.00 World News 6.30 Londres Matin 6.59 Weather 7.00 World News 7.09 News About Britain 7.15 Recording of the Week 7.30 The Human Child 8.00 Newsdesk 8.30 I Remember It Well 9.00 World News 9.09 Words of Faith 9.15 Health Matters 9.30 Anything Goes 10.00 World News 10.05 World Business Report live 10.15 Lent Observed 10.30 Andy Kershaw's World Of Music 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News Summary 11.01 The Human Child 11.30 Londres Mdi 11.45 Mittagsmagazin 11.59 Business Update midday Newsdesk 12.30 Composer of the Month: Henry Purcell 1.00 World News 1.09 News About Britain 1.15 Break A Leg 1.45 Sports Roundup 2.00 Newshour 3.00 World News 3.05 Outlook live 3.30 Off the Shelf: The Waylarers Staff 3.45 Sugar and Spice 4.00 World News 4.15 BBC English 4.29 News Headlines in French 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 World & British News 5.14 Travel News 5.15 BBC English 5.30pm Londres Soir

All times in BST.

BBC1, BBC2, World Service TV on page 17

ARTS SOUFFLES

Bear necessities

IF YOU go down to the Natural History Museum in Vienna next Wednesday, 7 April, you're in for a big surprise. About 1,500 teddy-bears will be gathered there to celebrate their 90th anniversary in an exhibition "Bärenlese — zum Wesen des Teddys".

It was in 1902 that President Theodore (or Teddy) Roosevelt reprieved a bear he had cornered whilst out hunting, and thus inspired mass-production and worldwide affection for this ill-tempered beast. The exhibition has come from Essen in Germany, the heart of modern bear-manufacture, where it attracted a staggering 97,000 visitors in less than four months.

Not all the bears on show will be teddy-bears: large stuffed grizzlies, "radio-bears" with speakers in their ears, bald rubber ones, painted bear portraits and even edible bears will illustrate the evolution of this ursamania.

Precious relics

WHATEVER the accusations against the cultural imperialism of Disney land, or the ethics of celebrating Columbus's conquest of defenceless Indians, some people at least are doing well out of these much-publicised events. The distinguished Parisian auction house Chartres and M Jean Lelievre, is holding today a sale of "Important Disney, principalement de Mickey". At the other end of the scale the auctioneers Ader Tajan sold last Monday the "Livres et manuscrits precieux de Christophe Colomb". It is remarkable that objects of this importance are are still in private hands. The Latin edition of the letter written by Columbus to King Ferdinand of Spain, announcing his discovery of the Americas fetched its top estimate FF 1,800,000 (£177,800). The first woodcut illustrations of the New World, which included a picture of the admiral of Columbus's ship giving presents to hostile natives went for a mere FF 450,000 (£44,460).

Toulouse-Lautrec's La Goulue comes home to Montmartre, while this German teddy bear celebrates its 90th anniversary in Vienna

Last can-can in Paris

THE remains of La Goulue, the can-can dancer made internationally famous by Toulouse-Lautrec's poster for the Moulin Rouge, have been returned to Montmartre. Exhumed from a field in the Paris suburbs 63 years after she was buried, she now takes her rightful place alongside Paris's most illustrious figures. The woman whose beauty and charisma set Paris ablaze in the 1890s became a fat, forgotten lion-tamer, weighed down by her illegitimate son who drained her meagre income.

Flower power

"THE Greatest Flower Show on Earth" opens on Friday, April 10. Over two million bulbs have been planted covering an area of 70 hectares for the "Floriade" exhibition near the Hague. 35,000 different varieties of flowers will be on show from countries all around the world. Set out along the lines of famous historical gardens like Hampton Court or Versailles, the exhibition will be divided up into medicinal and miniature gardens, rosariums, aromatic gardens, blossoming bee gardens, and a "children's paradise".

Pens of prize mushrooms will be auctioned, and vast greenhouses, stuffed with every conceivable fruit and vegetable will have gastronomic tastings. Stars of the show, as one would expect, are the forests of tulips that extend as far as the eye can see.

Top coats

ONE would not think it likely that an exhibition documenting "100 years of Overcoats" would set the world on fire, but Frau Diederies from the Museum of Applied Art in Cologne claims that approximately 20,000 visitors have already allowed it to rank as at least a moderate success. The exhibition traces the evolution of the garment from its origins in the flamboyant and unisex capes of the late 19th century, through the taste for trenchcoats and anoraks following the Great War and the strict English style that was fashionable in the 1930s, and ends up with the glittering evening-wear fantasies created by Dior, Chanel and Givenchy in the 1960s and 1970s. If nothing else this exhibition provides a fascinating insight into the sartorial elegance of the affluent burghers of Cologne, who donated most of the exhibits.

OPERA

Infernal torments

DANTE'S account of the doomed love of Francesca and Paolo has inspired a great many operas, of which the most famous is Riccardo Zandonai's **Francesca da Rimini**, composed in 1914 and currently on display at Bologna's Teatro Comunale.

But if this is the best of them, the Devil is welcome to the rest. Imagine a Puccini opera shorn of the allure of its vocal lines and carelessly re-orchestrated by Richard Strauss in a *Salome* mood, and you will have the general idea.

What it needs is a pair of great interpreters, but they are not to be found in Bologna: Raina Kabaivanska is a posturing diva who pushes the remains of an unremarkable voice to the very limit, and Sergei Larin's stiff tenor is incapable of sensual caress.

Paolo Gavanelli, a blunderbuss of a baritone with a stage presence to match, is excellent as the brutal Giancotto, and the orchestra under Niksa Bareza does more than justice to the score. Alberto Fassini's production, designed by Pasquale Grossi, evokes an aptly Art Nouveau vision of medieval Romagna. But these merits alone are not enough.

NIGEL JAMIESON